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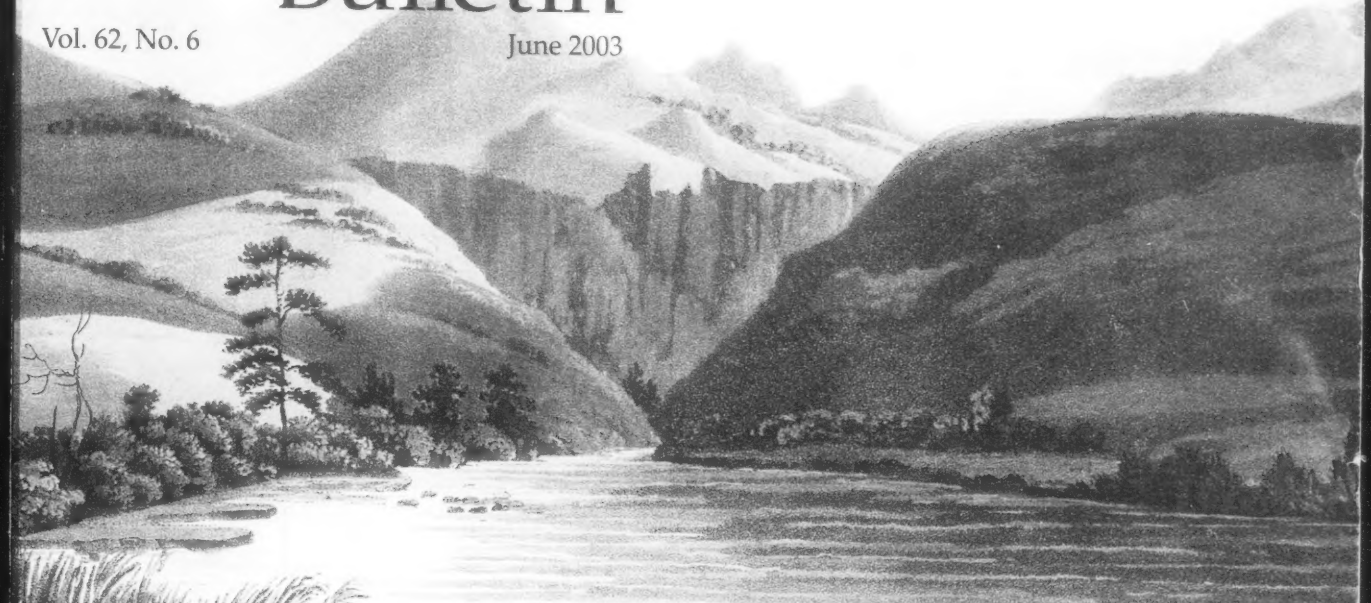
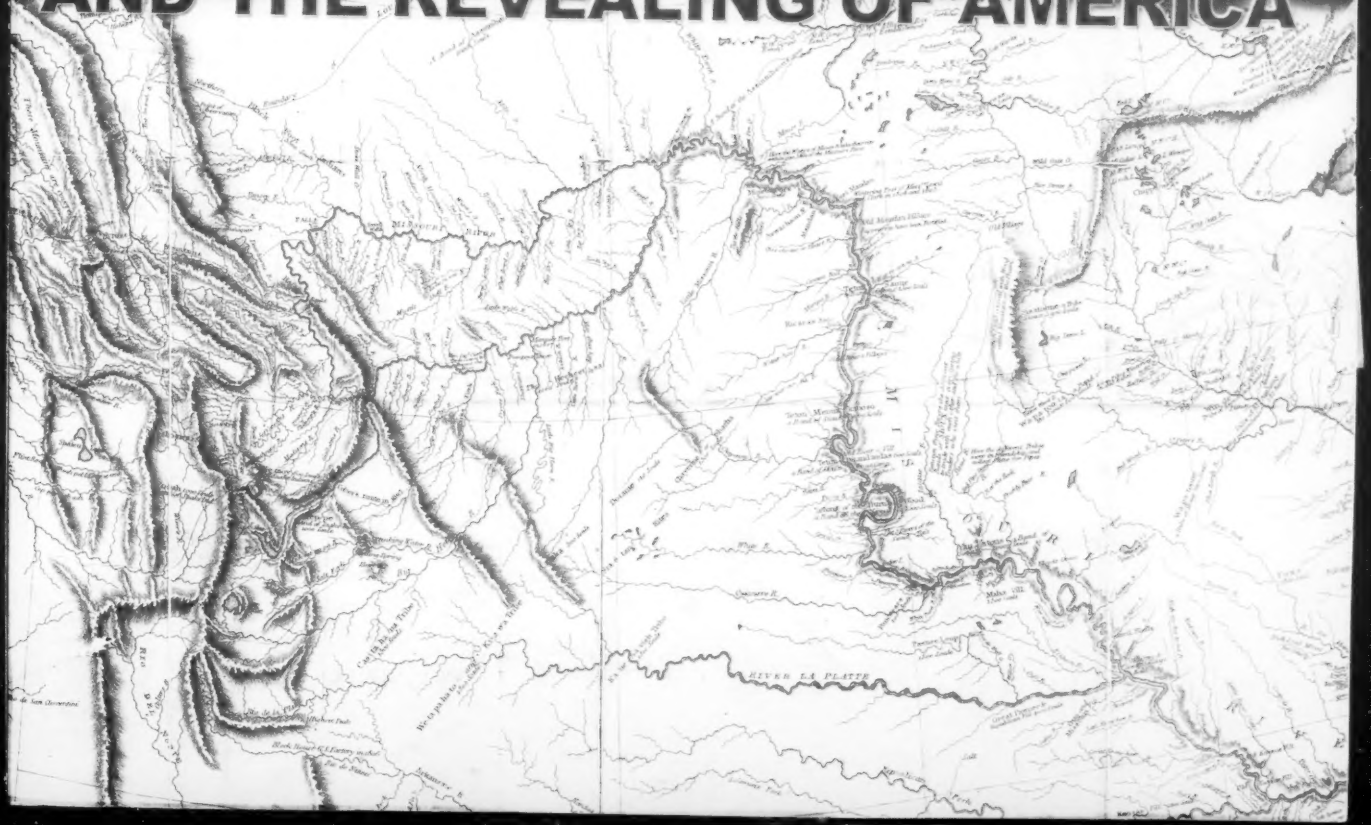


# LEWIS & CLARK
## AND THE REVEALING OF AMERICA



*The* LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS

# Information Bulletin

Vol. 62, No. 6 June 2003

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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**On the Cover:** Top, "View of the Chasm Through Which the Platte Issues from the Rocky Mountains," by S. Seymour, from an account of a western journey that covered the same ground as Lewis and Clark, 1823; bottom, "A Map of Lewis and Clark's Track," by Samuel Lewis after William Clark, from the published history of the Lewis and Clark expedition, 1814.

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# Rivers, Edens, Empires

## *Exhibition Charts the "Revealing" of America*

Thomas Jefferson (1791 portrait by Charles Willson Peale) wrote this letter of instruction to Meriwether Lewis on the exploration of the relatively unknown Louisiana Territory. The mission would combine national aspirations for territorial expansion with scientific discovery. Below, a 1795 map of North America by Aaron Arrowsmith presented a broad, blank canvas that Jefferson hoped Lewis and Clark would begin to fill.

Two hundred years ago, a small group of men came together under the command of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to embark on an expedition across the largely unknown and uncharted territory west of the Mississippi River in the new nation to fulfill the visionary quest of Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States. Often referred to as the Corps of Discovery, the men had no idea of the wonders they would see and the hardships they would endure before they finally returned home in 1806.

As one journalist has written: "Lewis and Clark saw themselves as Army officers. Their instructions from their Commander in Chief were clear, and the spirit behind them was practical, not poetic: claim the West and its wealth for

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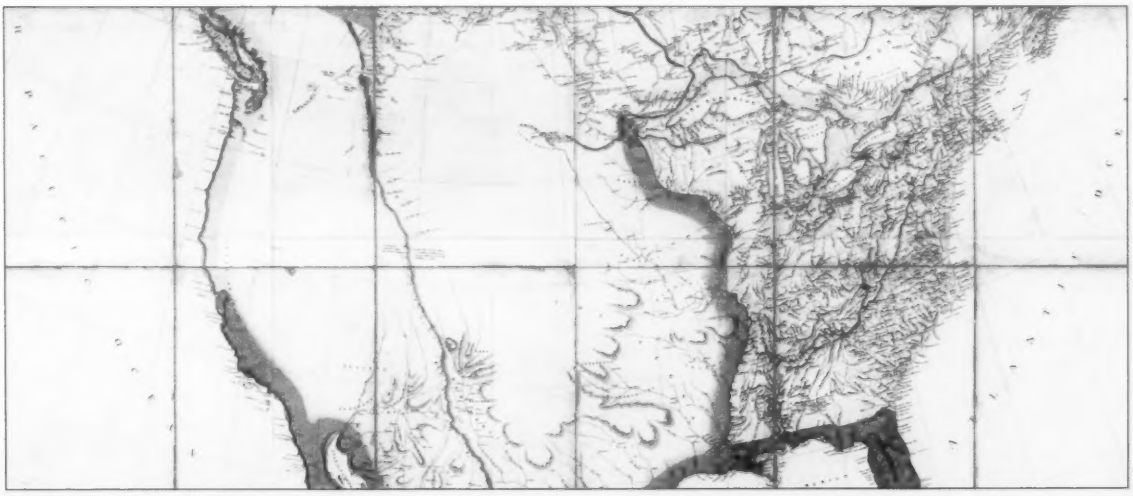


the United States. With Spain to the south and Britain to the north and everything in the middle up for grabs, the first American space race had begun. The expansion of knowledge was one objective—the mission was furnished with scientific instruments—but the expansion of power was its chief goal."

The Library of Congress exhibition "Rivers, Edens, Empires: Lewis & Clark and the Revealing of America," draws on the Library's rich holdings—especially its unequaled map and atlas collections and the papers of Thomas Jefferson and other founding fathers—to tell the story of the exploration of the North American continent that features the Lewis and Clark expedition as the culminating moment in the quest to connect North America by means of a waterway passage. The exhibition opened in the Northwest Gallery and Pavilion of the Thomas Jefferson Building on July 24 and will be on view through Nov. 29. Hours for the exhibition are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

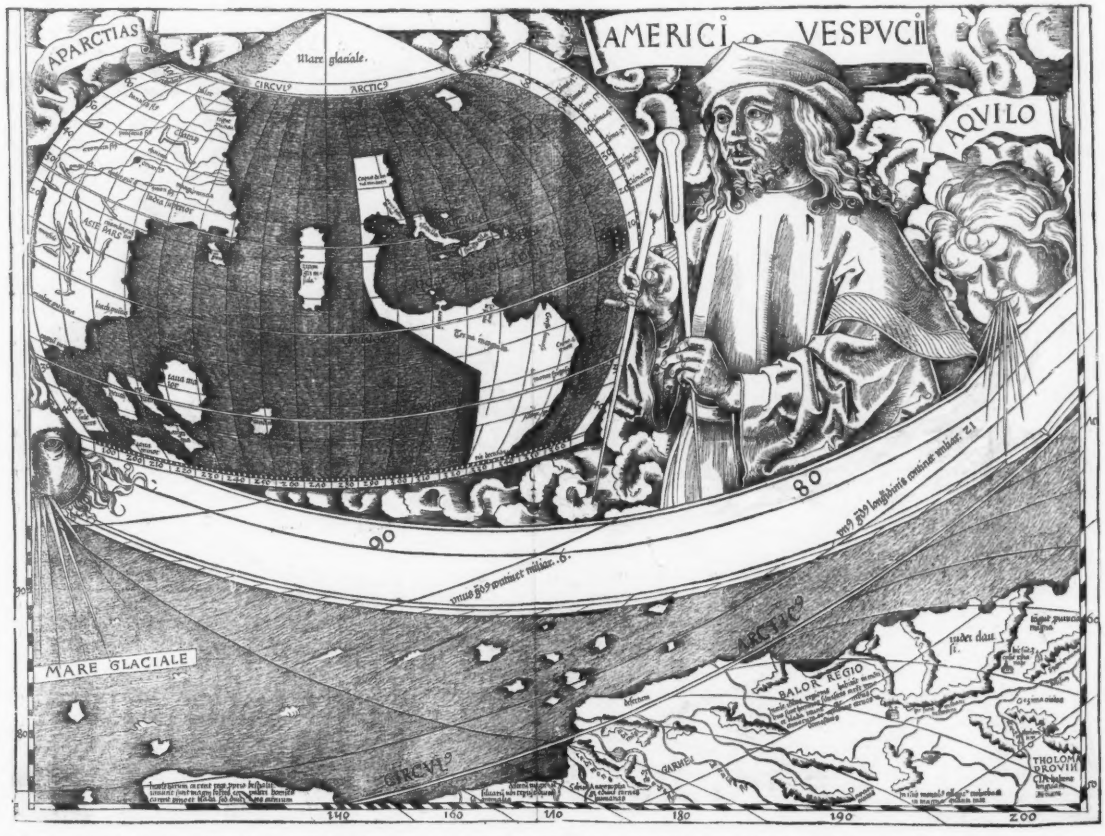
The highlight of the exhibition is the display, for the first time at the Library of Congress, of the large 1507 world map by cartographer Martin Waldseemüller, which gave the name "America" to the new lands explored by Columbus, Vespucci and others. The map was the result of an ambitious project in St. Dié, France, in the early years of the 16th century, to update geographic knowledge flowing out of the new discoveries of the late 15th and early 16th centuries. The map is in 12 sections, each measuring 16½ inches by 23¼ inches, for a total of 36 square feet. The Library has recently purchased the map—the only known extant copy from an original printing of 1,000—which Librarian of Congress James Billington has called "the keystone of the Library's unparalleled collection of maps and atlases."

The Waldseemüller map, and what it shows about geographic knowledge at the beginning of the 16th century, serves as an impressive prequel to the rest of the exhibition. The visitor's understanding is enhanced by a prologue that defines the continent and summarizes geographic knowledge up to the mid-18th century. A digital presentation at the beginning of the exhibition helps to explain graphically how geographic information evolved.

### "Rivers, Edens, Empires"

"Rivers, Edens, Empires" shows how the Lewis and Clark journey was shaped by the search for navigable rivers, inspired by the quest for "Edens," and driven by competition for empire. Thomas Jefferson was motivated by these aspirations when he drafted instructions for the expedition, sending them up the Missouri River in search of a passage to the Pacific.

Writing to his friend William Dunbar just a month after Lewis and Clark left Ft. Mandan (in what is now North Dakota) in 1805, Jefferson emphasized




**One panel, featuring Amerigo Vespucci, of the 12-panel map of the world by Martin Waldseemüller, 1507; the map was the the first to call the New World "America."**

the importance of rivers in his plan for Western exploration and national expansion: "We shall delineate with correctness the great arteries of this great country." River highways could take Americans into an "Eden," Jefferson's vision of the West as the "Garden of the World." And those same rivers might be nature's outlines and borders for empire. "Future generations would," so Jefferson told his friend, "fill up the canvas we begin."

### Description of the Exhibition: Before Lewis and Clark

The exhibition is divided into four major sections: Prologue (with the display of the Waldseemüller map), Before Lewis and Clark, Lewis and Clark, and After Lewis and Clark. These sections are further subdivided to illustrate and help explain the historical trends that the exhibition covers.

Beyond the Allegheny Mountains examines the Virginia conception of North America and lays the foundation for Jefferson's enduring interest in exploration. From the earliest stages of Chesapeake Tidewater settlement, when mapmakers such as John Farrer depicted the Pacific Ocean lying just west of the Alleghenies, Virginia, like other colonies, had an imperial mentality and vision that encompassed the entire breadth of the continent. Virginians envisioned that by building canals and improving the navigation of the colony's major rivers, they could create vital connections across the mountains to the rest of the continent. A key map in this section that vividly illustrates the British colonial mentality is John Mitchell's 1755 hand-colored, engraved "Map of British and French Dominions in North America."

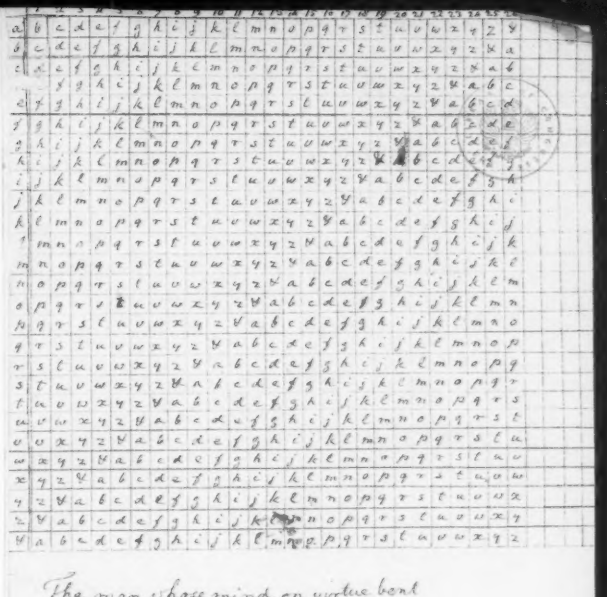
The Spanish Entrada into the Southwest displays manuscript maps that summarize Spanish knowledge of the continent. The geography of the Southwest remained relatively unknown outside the Spanish Empire, since the maps and accounts of their settlements in parts of what is now California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas were not published. A highlight of this section is a 1769 map by José de Urrútia and Nicolás de Lafora locating Indian villages, Spanish missions and geographic features in amazing detail.

Exploration of the Missouri River examines what was known of the geography of the interior of the continent at the beginning of the 19th century. From the early 17th century to the middle of the 18th century, France claimed and occupied a major portion of the interior of North America. Working in alliance with the Native Americans in exploiting the fur trade, the French explored and mapped much of the continent's interior east of the Rocky Mountains, focusing on the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes and the lower Mississippi. On display in this section is the James Mackay–Nicolas de Finiels manuscript map of the Missouri River, covering the area from Saint Charles, Mo., to the Mandan villages of North Dakota. This is the map that Lewis and Clark used in their 1804 expedition up the Missouri River.

British Passage to the Pacific features images from Captain James Cook's Pacific voyage, including those made at Nootka Sound; Commander Joseph Ingraham's diary of his voyage as a trader and explorer; and the 1801 Ac ko mok ki map, "An Indian Map of the Different Tribes, that Inhabit the East and West Side of the Rocky Mountains." The Indian map was a crucial source of geographic information recorded on other maps that Jefferson and Lewis consulted as they planned the journey west.

The Louisiana Purchase, the next subsection of the exhibition, describes the importance of the 1803 treaty with France to acquire Louisiana, which gave the new nation not only access to the important port at New Orleans, but also all the lands west of the Mississippi, thus doubling the size of the United States.

As early as November 1802, Jefferson had asked the Spanish minister whether the Spanish court would "take it badly" if the United States sent a small expedition to "explore the course of the Missouri River," which was within the boundaries of the still-Spanish territory of Louisiana. The reason for the expedition, said Jefferson, was the advancement of commerce. The Spanish minister replied that "an expedition of this nature could not fail to give umbrage to our Government."



Jefferson's cipher for the Lewis and Clark expedition. Lewis was instructed to "communicate to us, at seasonable intervals, a copy of your journal, notes & observations, of every kind, putting into cipher whatever might do injury if betrayed." The code was never used.

On Jan. 18, 1803, however, just days after Jefferson sent James Monroe to France to negotiate American access rights to the Mississippi River (which ultimately resulted in the Louisiana Purchase), the president sent a secret message to Congress asking for funds to support his proposal for a western expedition to explore the possibilities of a commercial trade route west of the Mississippi, and the House and Senate quickly agreed to the appropriation.

As historian Bernard de Voto has observed: "The reason why his message was secret was not that the expedition was to be concealed from the three powers [Great Britain, Spain and France], to all of which it would be fully visible. … Not the expedition but its

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## *Conservation Corner*

# 100 Fragments of the American West

By ELMER EUSMAN

In 1916 the U.S. Indian Office transferred a unique map by the Jesuit missionary Pierre-Jean de Smet to the Library of Congress. The hand-drawn 1851 map outlines the territories of various Indian tribes in the West, extending from the Canadian border on the north to the Arkansas River on the south, and the Missouri River on the East to the Columbia River on the West. De Smet was able to compile this map using the knowledge he gleaned from his extensive travels through the West and from the local Indian tribes, all of whom held him in high regard.

In 1851 de Smet assisted in securing a peace treaty between the United States and a number of Indian tribes at a general council held at Fort Laramie. Because of his extensive knowledge of the Native American tribes, the government asked him to create a comprehensive map of the West, delineating the territories of the various tribes.

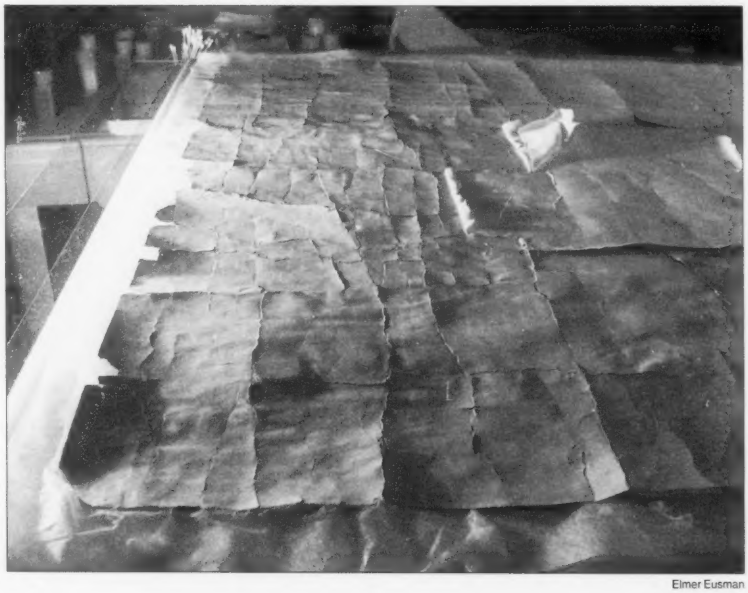
The map that de Smet made measures 35 inches by 53 inches and is completely hand-drawn in brown ink and watercolor. The map shows rivers, mountain ranges, towns, forts and state and territorial borders; it even features a decorative border with flowers and a portrait of an Indian chief named "Big Robber." However, the main significance of the map is its depiction of the location and extent of various Indian territories in the American West in 1851.

To a certain degree, the condition of the map before conservation treatment reflected the hardships endured by de Smet himself. The map had traveled widely and been heavily used; over time it had been subjected to a number of questionable repair treatments. The result was a map that was so damaged that it could hardly be consulted, much less displayed, without doing further damage to the document.

The most noticeable damage was the large number of tears, which had effectively divided the map into more than 100 small fragments. An attempt to stabilize the map had been made in the past by pasting a cotton fabric lining to the back of the map. Unfor-

Elmer Eusman

**Above, seven conservators worked five days to remove the cotton fabric lining and all residual paste from the fragile map. Below, the backside of the map after partial cotton fabric lining removal, clearly showing its multiple fragments. Opposite, top, the map is bathed in an enzyme solution, and (below) its hundred-plus fragments are pieced back together.**



Elmer Eusman

tunately, this created more tension in the paper, resulting in even more damage. The damage was compounded by a layer of chiffon silk that had been added to the front surface of the map, causing extensive discoloration that gave the paper a brown appearance.

The treatment of the map was further complicated by the vulnerability of the watercolor medium. In order to remove the cotton fabric lining, the chiffon silk and the associated paste, the map had to be washed. However, the use of water could have adverse effects on the watercolor, potentially resulting in some loss.

Because of the complexity of the map and its condition, the Library's Conservation Office decided to approach the treatment of the map with a team of eight experienced conservators. This approach, although unusual in paper conservation, turned out to be very successful, because each of the conservators was able to contribute a part of the solution. The core group of conservators were Sylvia Albro, Julie Biggs, Elmer Eusman, Annlinn Grossman, Mary Haude, Holly Krueger, Linda Morenus and Heather Wanser, with additional help from Otoyo Yonekura, Cynthia Karnes and Lida Husik.

The fragility of the paper was the first factor that needed to be addressed. Treatment was going to place additional physical stress on the map, and, therefore, it needed to be reinforced ahead of time. Conservators applied a facing of Japanese paper to the front of the map to prevent further tearing and help keep the many fragments in place.

The next phase of treatment involved removing the cotton lining from the back of the map. This took many hours of careful wetting and scraping. At the same time, conservators needed to prevent excess water from reaching the front of the map and affecting the watercolor base. It took five days of work, but finally the team succeeded in removing most of the paste.

The map was now ready to be washed in an enzyme solution to remove the remaining paste residue and help dislodge the chiffon silk from the front surface. Enzymes are highly specific chemical compounds that react only with one specific chemical product: in this case, the starch paste. Although the colors had been tested extensively for solubility in water, the conservation team was relieved to see that all colors held beautifully. The facing, the chiffon silk and much of the discoloration and paper degradation products were washed out during two enzyme baths and additional rinsing baths. The map regained much of its former splendor with lighter paper and brighter colors.

Elmer Eusman

Elmer Eusman

Once the cotton lining was removed from the back of the map, there was nothing to hold it together; and after it was dried, the map consisted of more than 100 small fragments. Conservators properly aligned all of the fragments and repaired all of the losses, which were filled with paper pulp. Paper pulp is a water solution containing suspended paper fibers. When paper pulp is applied to an area where there has been a loss, and then dried, it creates a new layer of paper within that area.

Finally, conservators gave the map a new lining of two layers of Japanese paper. Japanese paper is thin but very strong, and it does not cause the tension that cotton fabric does. The final result was a perfectly aligned, flat map.

Apart from minor toning of some of the areas of the map where losses had occurred, conservators did not have to

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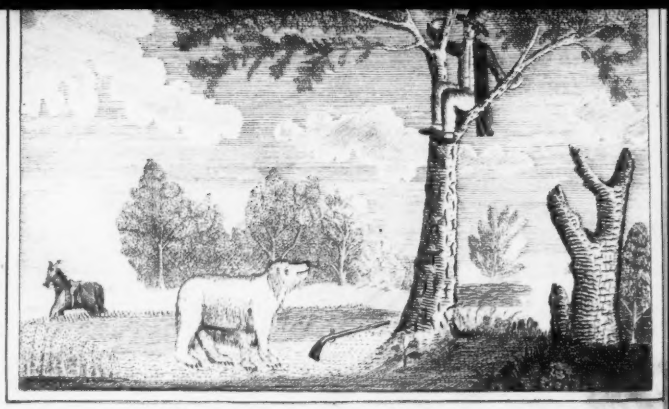
*Captain Clark and his men shooting Bears.*



*An American having struck a Bear but not killed him, escapes into a Tree.*

Sometimes you hunt the bear, sometimes the bear hunts you: two illustrations of life on the trail in "A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery under the Command of Capt. Lewis and Capt. Clarke [sic]...," Patrick Gass, 1810

**Edens**

*continued from page 125*

true purpose was to be concealed. So far as secrecy was possible that purpose had to be concealed, for it had in view the fur trade of Canada, the maritime trade in sea otter and China goods, and the Columbia River." (The original manuscript of Jefferson's secret message is included in the Lewis and Clark section of the exhibition.)

The Senate ratified the treaty approving the Louisiana Purchase late in 1803, and the French turned over the territory to the United States in a ceremony on Dec. 20, 1803. A manuscript of the treaty, from the Library's James Monroe papers, as well as a May 14, 1803, letter from Monroe to James Madison, are on view in the exhibition.

### Lewis and Clark

The core of the exhibition is the section on Lewis and Clark. Featured here are many of the maps and manuscript documents from the Library's rich and extensive collections covering this period of the nation's history, including the papers of Thomas Jefferson, augmented with important loans from distinguished collections across the country.

Among the items on view are the Nicholas King 1803 annotated map that the Corps of Discovery took on its journey; Jefferson's instructions to Meriwether Lewis for the journey; Jefferson's secret message to Congress requesting funding for the expedition; the Nicholas King 1805 map "of part of the continent of North America," which was compiled from information sent back to Washington by Lewis halfway through the journey; and an exchange of speeches between Jefferson and a delegation of Indian chiefs (representing the Osages, Missouri, Otos, Panis, Cansas Ayowais and Sioux) on their historic visit to Washington, D.C., in January 1806.

Journals, engravings, botanical and zoological specimens and Indian artifacts on display in this section bring additional vivid detail to the journey of the Corps of Discovery and the country and peoples they encountered. These items also provide insight into the similarities and differences between Euro-American and Indian approaches to diplomacy, geographic definition, dress, and animal and plant life. This section is enhanced by a digital station that animates the source maps that Lewis and Clark used and shows how the geographic information they gathered was added to existing data to produce a new compilation, which then became a source map for future expeditions and maps of the West.

### Other Expeditions Across America: After Lewis and Clark

Not only is the Library rich in Lewis and Clark-related material, but it also holds impressive collections of other important Western expeditions, including those led by Zebulon Pike, Stephen Long, Charles Wilkes and John Frémont; exploratory voyages by fur traders and missionaries; and expeditions under the auspices of the Northwest and Mexican Boundary Commissions. These are examined in the third section of the exhibition and place the remarkable trek made by Lewis and Clark in the broad context of

Lewis and Clark encountered many Native American tribes in their journey, including the Sioux, depicted in this "Bear Dance of the Sioux" by George Catlin, ca. 1850.

Lewis and Clark's expedition led to trade and settlement. At left, a train heads west in "Illinois, High Water," ca. 1907; above, G.K. Warren's "Map of the Territory of the United States...," 1857.

a century of exploration of the North American continent. An important contribution of these later journeys is the work of the artists and scientists who accompanied the expeditions, as well as the drawings they produced and specimens they collected along the way. Some of these can be seen in this last section of the exhibition.

The Epilogue of "Rivers, Edens, Empires" focuses on the Pacific Railroad Surveys conducted by the War Department and the Corps of Topographical Engineers. These surveys mapped four possible transcontinental routes and resulted in the 13 volumes of detailed, lavishly illustrated reports as well as the comprehensive map by G. K. Warren that closes the exhibition. Warren's map completed the process of cartographic definition begun a half century earlier by William Clark. In many ways the Pacific Railroad Surveys marked the end of an era—the age in which explorers sought a water route across the continent.

The exhibition's concluding virtual station depicts a compilation of routes from Lewis and Clark through the railroad surveys. The paths of these expeditions are superimposed on a map of the continental United States to demonstrate graphically the fulfillment of Jefferson's vision articulated so long ago to his friend William Dunbar that future generations would indeed "fill up the canvas."

For an online view of the exhibition, visit the Library's Web site at **www.loc.gov/exhibits/lewisandclark/**. ◆

*Prepared by Helen Dalrymple with assistance from exhibition staff.*

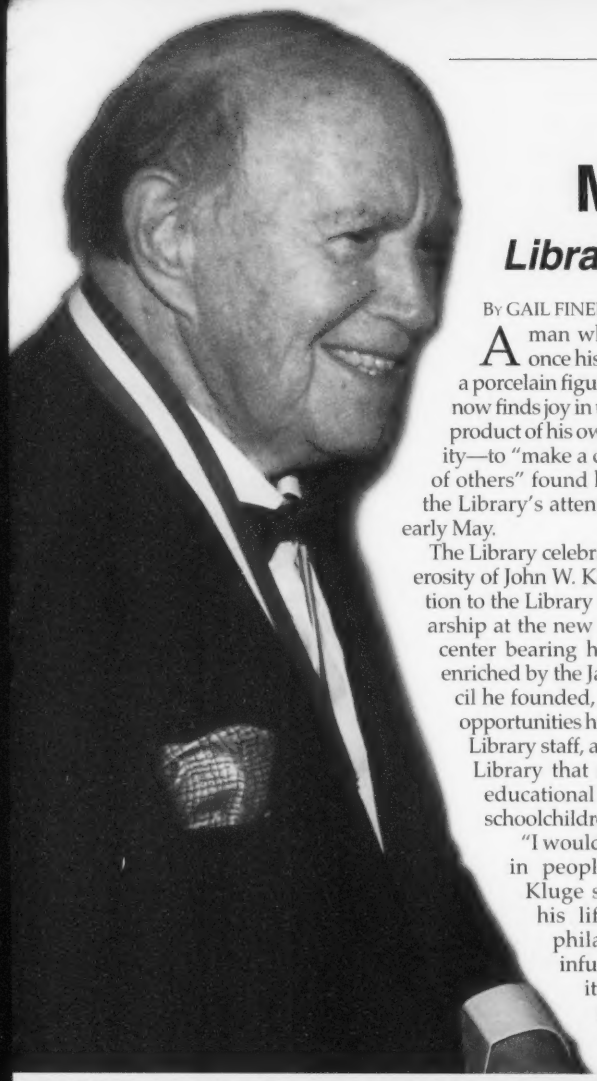
**Conservation**
*continued from page 127*

fill in any of the original design on the map. The pulp color blends in well with the original paper of the map, and one can hardly distinguish the losses at first glance. Upon closer inspection, it is clear that small areas are missing, but this does not interfere with the ability of the viewer to appreciate the map much the way it must have appeared when it was first created in 1851. ◆

*Elmer Eusman is a senior paper conservator in the Library's Conservation Division.*

**At right, the De Smet map after treatment and restoration**

Jim Flatness



# John Kluge: Making a Difference

## *Library Celebrates a Life of Generosity*

By GAIL FINEBERG

A man who never forgot that once his only possession was a porcelain figure of a horse and who now finds joy in using his wealth—the product of his own hands and ingenuity—to "make a difference in the lives of others" found himself the center of the Library's attention and affection in early May.

The Library celebrated the life and generosity of John W. Kluge, whose benefaction to the Library will endure in scholarship at the new Library of Congress center bearing his name, collections enriched by the James Madison Council he founded, career-development opportunities he has provided for the Library staff, and a National Digital Library that makes the Library's educational content available to schoolchildren everywhere.

"I would rather, by far, invest in people than buildings," Kluge said in a film about his life, philosophy and philanthropy. "If I can infuse a mind to improve itself, that will pass on to their children and their children's children."

Produced by Judith Hallet and narrated by James Earl Jones, the film, "John Kluge, The Will to Make a Difference," was one highlight of a surprise tribute to Kluge on May 6. The next day he was surprised again as he listened to scholars describe their work with the Library's collections during the dedication of the John W. Kluge Center, which he endowed with a $60 million gift. (See related story, p. 132.)

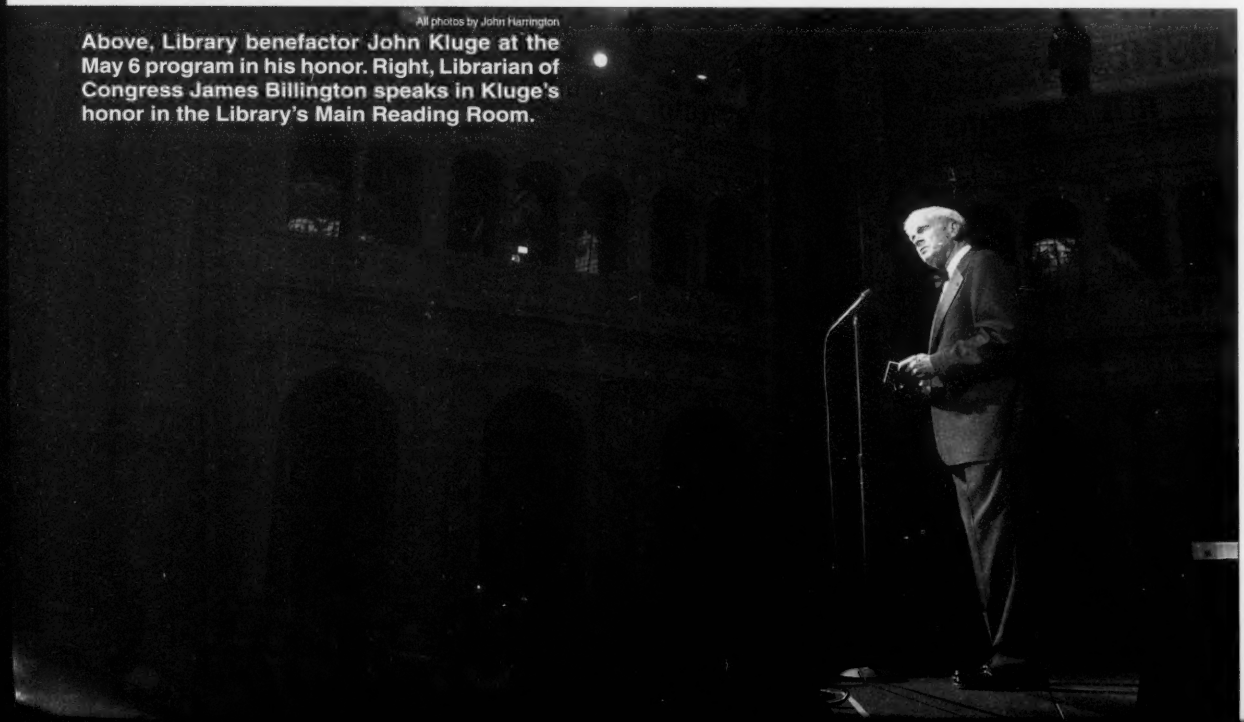
Another surprise was the premiere performance of a march that was reconstructed from an unfinished John Philip Sousa manuscript discovered in the Library's collections. Resplendent in a white uniform, Library staff member Loras John Schissel led the Virginia Grand Military Band in a snappy rendition of "The Library of Congress March."

The May 6 program included celebratory remarks by Librarian of Congress James Billington, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Madison Council Vice Chairman Edwin Cox; readings by Poet Laureate Billy Collins; songs by crooner Tony Bennett; and the presentation of the Library's Living Legend Award to Kluge.

The Librarian welcomed guests to the Library "on behalf of the Congress that sustains it and the staff that serve it. Tonight we gather to honor John W. Kluge, a man whose vision of the importance of knowledge and opportunity for our country embodies the spirit of this magnificent space," Billington said. "John Kluge, along with others on the

All photos by John Harrington

**Above, Library benefactor John Kluge at the May 6 program in his honor. Right, Librarian of Congress James Billington speaks in Kluge's honor in the Library's Main Reading Room.**



From Poet Laureate Billy Collins (left) to crooner deluxe Tony Bennett (above), the literati joined with the glitterati to sing the praises of John Kluge.

James Madison Council that he chairs, has helped in many ways ... to make this, America's oldest federal cultural institution, an innovative force for the new millennium."

He noted in particular that Kluge and David Packard, with their 1994 contributions later matched by Congress, "planted the seeds" for the National Digital Library. "This multimedial educational resource now attracts nearly 80 million hits a month, and the Library as a whole received last year more than 2 billion electronic transactions," Billington said.

Stevens, who is president pro-tem of the Senate and chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, presented Kluge with a Senate Resolution "thanking you for all you have done to enhance and perpetuate this Library that has served this Congress so well."

In the opening scene of the Kluge film, Stevens said, "John Kluge is an American icon. He's been an entrepreneur with a heart."

The film traced Kluge's life and guiding principles of hard work and, always, an awareness of those he could help. Born in eastern Germany on Dec. 21, 1914, Kluge never knew his father, who was killed early in World War I. In 1922, with his mother and stepfather, he sailed across the Atlantic to America. Passing the Statue of Liberty on the way to Ellis Island, the 8-year-old stood at the ship railing, clutching the only thing he owned, a small Dresden figurine of a proud white charger mounted by a soldier in a red coat (pictured, right).

"I treasured that horse," Kluge recalled in the film. "I still have it. And every time I think I'm too smart for my own britches, I look at that horse and I know exactly where I came from."

Not only did he not forget his immigrant roots, he remembered his high school typing teacher who took him in and inspired him to study hard and apply for a Columbia University scholarship. He won the scholarship and, upon graduation with a degree in economics, $2,000 in a history contest. He bought his teacher a new Ford. "I had more fun giving her that car than anything I can remember," he said.

Kluge bought his first radio station, WGAY in Silver Spring, in 1946, and then purchased three Channel 5 television stations to make up for a poker hand he would have won, had not a fateful knock on the door interrupted the clandestine college game. He eventually built a vast empire of independent television and radio stations. His Metromedia conglomerate included the Ice Capades and Harlem Globetrotters.

Throughout his life Kluge shared the fruits of his success. Observed Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), "He has given to so many organizations and worthwhile causes over the years, but only without the kind of recognition others demand of their contributions. Those of us who have known him will talk about him as the embodiment of what the generosity of spirit really means."

Kluge's endowments include tuition for 200 minority students to attend Columbia University. "As an immigrant, you are a minority," he said. "If minorities get the proper tools, they'll do as well as anybody else. ... [It's] the only way for a country to be strong."

Said Library staffer Angela Kinney in a film segment about the Kluge-endowed Leadership Development Program, which has graduated 30 employees and will begin a fourth offering in the fall, "Education is what is needed for you to be able to achieve great things in your life, and so I really have to thank Mr. Kluge for providing me, as a minority, an opportunity in the Leadership Development Program." She recalled the powerful impact of a

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# Opening the Kluge Center

## *Librarian, John Kluge Inaugurate Center for Scholars*

By GAIL FINEBERG

"A mouse turned loose in a cheese factory" is the way Jaroslav Pelikan, the first holder of the Kluge Chair in the John W. Kluge Center, described his year of discovery in the collections of the Library of Congress.

"The match, the fit between resources and curiosity, it seems to me, is the genius of this place," Pelikan said at the May 7 dedication of the center.

The Sterling professor of history emeritus at Yale University, Pelikan is the author of more than 30 books, including the forthcoming "Creeds and Confessions of Faith in the Christian Tradition" in five volumes.

All photos by John Harrington

With the approval of Librarian James Billington, John Kluge cuts the ribbon to open the new scholarly center that bears his name.

His study at the Kluge Center, Pelikan said, "was one of the great experiences of my life, enabling me to do all kinds of things I had never done before and to go to a work that I'm still engaged in and will be as long as I have life and breath."

He thanked the center staff. "The way that they could run interference like blocking backs, it was really admirable and enormously useful, doubling the amount of work I was able to do, because I didn't have to do so much of it myself," he said.

After listening to Pelikan's unscheduled remarks, as well as the enthusiastic comments of seven scholars and the Library's poet laureate on a dedicatory panel, John W. Kluge, the center's benefactor and namesake, said he wished he had known the Librarian of Congress 30 years ago.

"The program would have had 30 years of life, and I'm sorry that I will not see it in the next 15 years, but I know that the seed has been planted," Kluge said.

"The Library staff is so terrific, and this place is so terrific. As a matter of fact I have to tell you this, if I weren't married, I'd marry this place."

Inspired by Librarian James H. Billington's dream of making the Library a place where "the world's leading thinkers make greater use of the world's greatest collection of human knowledge,"Kluge gave the Library of Congress $60 million in 2000, the Library's bicentennial year, for a research center for scholars. The center opened unofficially in renovated quarters of the Jefferson Building in 2002.

The endowment provides for five senior Kluge Chairs that correspond broadly to Library collections relating to study of the cultures and societies of the North and the South; technology's interaction with society; American law and governance; and modern culture.

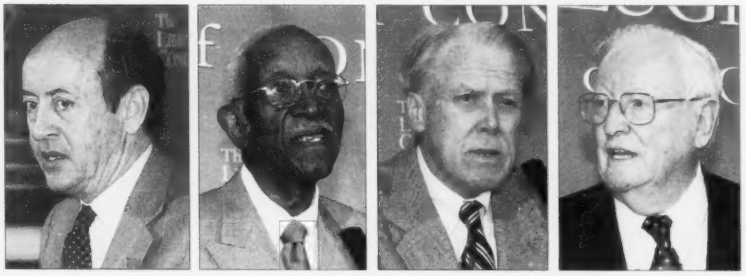
Three other chairs carrying other endowments are located at the center: the Henry A. Kissinger Chair in Foreign Policy and International Relations, the Harissios Papamarkou Chair in Education, and the Cary and Ann Maguire Chair in Ethics and American History. Enriching the intellectual ferment at the center are 25 post-doctoral fellows, including Kluge fellowships for two Library staff members, distinguished visiting scholars and fellowships endowed by other benefactors.

A Scholars' Council, with several Nobel- and Pulitzer-prize winners, was appointed to assist the Librarian in the selection of chair holders and advise him on the activities of the center. The Librarian has consulted the council as he prepares to select the first recipient of the $1 million Kluge Prize for a lifetime of achievement in the humanities and social sciences, to be awarded this November.

At the center dedication, Billington acknowledged the work of Kluge Center Director Prosser Gifford, who also heads the Office of Scholarly Programs, in organizing the center, building its staff and supporting the scholars. The Librarian explained that the idea was to bring together senior scholars with junior post-doctoral scholars to interact with the collections, with one another, and with members of Congress.

"It's the very senior and the very junior who seemed to be the missing elements from the mix we have here in Washington, which, of course, is very rich with wonderful think tanks and marvelous people," the Librarian said.

Poet Laureate Billy Collins added his interpretation of the purpose of the



Poet Laureate Billy Collins, John Hope Franklin, Judge John Noonan and Robert Remini spoke at the opening of the Kluge Center.

Other scholars who spoke at the Kluge Center opening include Klaus Larres, Romila Thapar, Baruch Blumberg and Libby Larsen; below, Kluge greets other scholars and staff of the center.

Library's program for scholars. "The bridge between the Library of Congress, particularly the John W. Kluge scholars' center, and the Capitol and [legislators] across the street, is really a link between silent reading and public speech," said Collins.

"What the center can accomplish, in my sense of it, is that public speech and therefore political action may be informed by the quieter, meditative acts of thinking, reading and reflection," he said. "Change, so the truism goes, comes from within, and I think the work of scholarship in the sciences and humanities offers an alternative to the rush of public noise, and also the possibility that a changed mind will lead to a changed society."

Given two minutes each to describe their Kluge Center experiences, the scholars represented a wide range of interests, from the history of the history of India to the history of the House of Representatives; from the discovery of life in space to the chilling of American-European relations; from the teaching of the Catholic Church on matters of moral conduct to the composition of music.

John Hope Franklin, the center's first distinguished visiting scholar, said he initially came to the Library in 1939 to research his doctoral dissertation. He returned in 1945 to work on his seminal "From Slavery to Freedom, a History of African Americans"; in 1950 to work on the "Militant South, 1800-1861"; and more recently, as a Kluge fellow, to research his autobiography.

Only at the Library, he said, could he reconstruct so easily the stories and the people of his life—from newspapers, journals, city directories and manuscripts. "I was struck by the extent to which this place is not only a repository of the great resources of the world, and the knowledge about the world, but it is also a repository of the things I have been doing," he said. That is helpful, he added, because he had rarely kept a diary.

Professor emeritus at the University of California at Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law and senior judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Judge John T. Noonan said he is immersed "in this immense citadel of books," pursuing an interest of his for the past 50 years.

The first holder of the Kluge Chair in American Law and Governance, Noonan is studying the teachings of the Catholic Church on four different kinds of conduct: the lending of money at a profit; the buying, selling and keeping of human beings as property; the persecution of heretics as the duty of Christian rulers; and the rules on marriage and remarriage.

"Here at the Kluge Center, I have been able to pursue these four topics in conciliar decrees, and papal bulls, and case judgments, and administrative rulings; in letters; in notarial acts; in biographies and histories and theological treatises—as they have developed over a period of almost 2,000 years, from Rome to Jakarta, from St. Paul to John Paul the Second."

Robert Remini, professor emeritus at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the "foremost Jacksonian scholar of our time," is the distinguished visiting scholar of American history. He said he is "having a ball" while making use of the Library's collections to write the history of the House of Representatives, an assignment that the Librarian gave him in response to a directive from the House in 1999.

"This place is a paradise for scholars," Remini said, "with all of the papers that they have collected over the years, of congressmen, of presidents, of great men and women who have made this country—and they're all mine. Except I have to give them back."

Klaus Larres, recently named to the Royal Holloway Chair in International Relations at the University of London, is the second scholar to hold the Henry Alfred Kissinger chair. The author of "Churchill's Cold War: The Politics of Personal Diplomacy," he has identified three turning points at which European-American relations chilled—during the Nixon-Kissinger years of the 1970s, at the end of the Cold War in 1990-91, "and, of course, after 9/11."

He ticked off four reasons that his time at the Kluge Center was "very, very stimulating, very exciting and very helpful to my research": (1) the Library's enormous book, journal and newspaper collections; (2) the primary resources of the Manuscript Division; (3) the prestige of the Library and Kluge Center that "opens doors in political and academic Washington"; and (4) the "very great support of the very friendly staff at the Kluge Center."

Romila Thapar, a native of New Delhi, who is recognized as the foremost historian of ancient India, is the recent occupant of the Kluge Chair for Countries and Cultures of the South. She said it was "a great excitement" to

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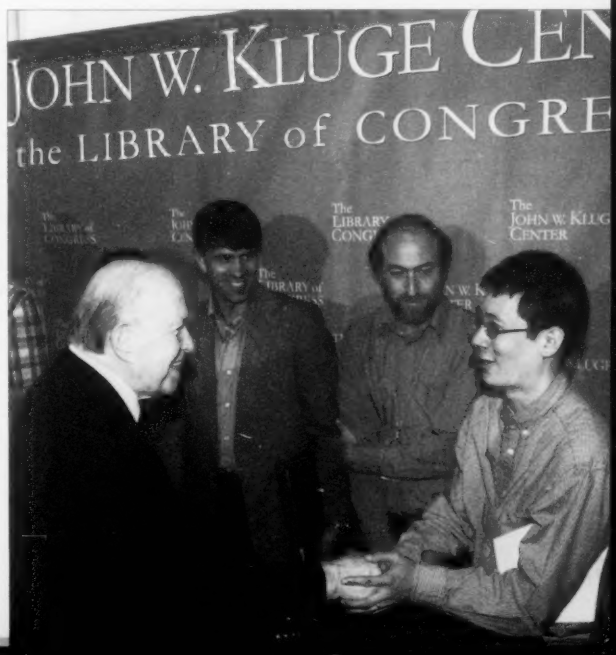

# Taking Up Residence

## *Four Scholars Added to Kluge Center Roster*

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has announced the appointments of Romila Thapar, an authority on Indian history, and Libby Larsen, a prolific American composer, to study at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress.

Thapar, emeritus professor of ancient Indian history at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Dehli, is the first holder of the Kluge Chair in Countries and Cultures of the South. Larsen, the composer of more than 200 works, has been named to the Harissios Papamarkou Chair in Education and Technology in the Kluge Center.

The Library also announced the selection of Christopher Anderson of Indiana University and Julio Moreno of the University of San Francisco to receive the first Library of Congress Coca-Cola Fellowships for the Study of Advertising and World Cultures for 2003.

### Romila Thapar

The holder of the Kluge Chair in Countries and Cultures of the South pursues research on the regions of Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, or the islands of the Pacific including Australia and New Zealand, using the immense foreign language collections of the Library's specialized reading rooms. Thapar will spend 10 months at the Kluge Center pursuing "Historical Consciousness in Early India" as her area of research.

Thapar, who has served as visiting professor at Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania, is a recognized authority on Indian history. The author of many seminal works on the history of ancient India, her volume of the Penguin History of India has been continuously in print since 1966. Her latest publication is "Early India: From the Origins to AD 1300." Other recent works are "Cultural Pasts: Essays in Early Indian History" and "History and Beyond." In her published works, Thapar has pioneered both the study of early Indian texts as history and the integration of the critical use of archaeology with written sources.

During her career Thapar has held many visiting posts in Europe, the United States and Japan. She is an honorary fellow at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, and at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She has honorary doctorates from the University of Chicago, the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales in Paris, the University of Oxford and the University of Calcutta.

### Libby Larsen

The Papamarkou Chair in Education and Technology was established through a generous gift from Alexander Papamarkou (deceased in 1998) in honor of his grandfather to address topics of education and technology that have an impact on the Library of Congress and the nation.

Beginning in June Larsen, as holder of this chair, will work to connect music education organizations with artists to plan new ways that arts educators and world-class artist practitioners can work together.

In addition, she will work to organize "The Global Green Room," a Web-based project to bring together leading practicing artists to consider "the soul" of America's culture. Larsen will also continue work on her book of essays about the cultural effects of music, electricity, sound and transportation.

Larsen has created more than 200 works spanning every genre, from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral and opera scores. Her opera, "Barnum's Bird," which was co-commissioned by the Library of Congress and the Odyssey Commissioning Program of the Plymouth Music Series in honor of the Library's 200th anniversary, had its world premiere in the Coolidge Auditorium in February 2002. Larsen's works are widely recorded on such labels as Angel/EMI, Nonesuch, Decca and Koch International Classics.

Her awards include the 1994 Grammy as producer of the CD, "The Art of Arleen Augér," a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Bush Foundation, and numerous honorary doctorate degrees. Larsen's opera, "Frankenstein, The Modern Prometheus," was selected as one of the eight best classical music events of 1990 by USA Today.

### Christopher Anderson and Julio Moreno

Administered by the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division (MBRS) in collaboration with the Library's Office of Scholarly Programs and the John W. Kluge Center, the Coca-Cola Fellowship is awarded on a competitive basis to researchers studying the interrelationships among advertising, culture, commerce and the media.

The fellowship provides recipients with a stipend of $20,000 each and access to resources at the Library for an extended period of in-depth, multidisciplinary research into the Library's audiovisual and other research collections. The fellows will be provided with research facilities in the Kluge Center for the period of their research.

Anderson's proposal, "An Eye Made Quiet: History in the Ruins of Live Television," examines the cultural history of live television in the 1950s, especially the intermingling of entertainment and advertising.

Moreno's proposal is "American Business, U.S. Foreign Policy, and Cold War Culture in Latin America, 1945-1990," a comparative examination of the diverse interests and approaches of American corporations and Latin American governments toward consumers.

Billington selected the two recipients of the Coca-Cola Fellowship upon the recommendation of a three-person selection committee chosen from the broader academic community. Coca-Cola provided funding for five fellowships. Applications for the 2004 fellowship will be accepted beginning on Nov. 1. For more information, visit **www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/cokefellowship/.**

The Coca-Cola Company donated its archives of television broadcast advertising materials to the Library of Congress in November 2000 in celebration of the

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## Gala

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speech he made to her class, in which he recalled convincing a Columbia University scholarship board that, "with these hands, I can do anything."

After more than a decade of collaborating on ways to "get the champagne out of the bottle," Billington and Kluge once again put their heads together to conceptualize Billington's dream of bringing "thinkers and doers" together in the nation's capital. On Oct. 5, 2000, the Librarian announced Kluge's gift of $60 million to support an academic center in which senior scholars and junior fellows could gather to make use of the Library's incomparable collections and to interact with members of Congress.

Kluge's gift also established a $1 million prize to be given in recognition of the lifetime of achievement in the humanities and social sciences, comparable to the Nobel Prizes in literature and science. The first prize will be awarded in November.

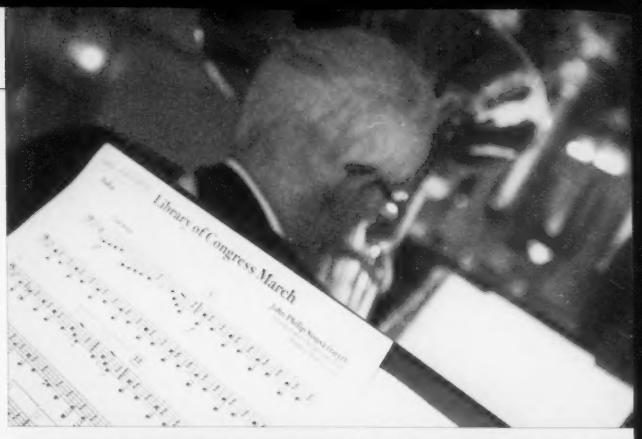
Of Kluge's legacy, Jaroslav Pelikan, the Sterling professor of history emeritus at Yale University and the first senior scholar to hold a Kluge chair, said: "Generosity without vision can be dangerous, and vision without generosity can be useless. And so, long after all of us are gone, that benefaction will continue to make it possible to exploit the riches of the Library of Congress. Five hundred years from now, I wonder now many books will there be that have his fingerprints on them?"

The film ends with Kluge's reflection: "To me, philanthropy comes naturally, because I just know when you pass out of this picture, you don't take anything with you.

"The only thing I brought to this country was that horse, and I'm not going to take it out of this country, either.

"In the sands of time, we make very little difference, but what difference we can make, we should try to make." ◆

*Gail Fineberg is editor of The Gazette, the Library's staff newsletter.*



Sousa's "Library of Congress March" was introduced at the May 6 gala and performed by the Virginia Grand Military Band under the direction of Library staff member Loras Schissel.

## Scholars

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50th anniversary of Coca-Cola's first TV commercial, which aired on Thanksgiving Day, 1950. The collection consists of more than 22,000 commercials that document the company's broadcast advertising, including those produced internationally.

The Library received the donation as part of the Bicentennial Gifts to the Nation program, marking the Library's 200th anniversary in 2000. The donation represents the largest gift of corporate advertising in the Library's history and joins a rich body of broadcast advertising materials dating to the early days of radio and television. ◆

## Kluge Center

*continued from page 133*

be able to study the historical consciousness of early India in the Library's large holdings of Indian material, both primary sources in Indian languages and secondary sources. She said she was finding parallels between ancient oral traditions and the earliest textual histories.

Baruch Blumberg, awarded the Nobel Prize in 1976 for physiology of medicine (he discovered the hepatitis-B vaccine) and a member of the center's Scholars' Council, heads the astrobiology program at NASA. He said the Kluge Center will be a "grand forum" for the discussion of three questions that guide his mission: "How did life start, chemically? Are we alone in the universe or is there life elsewhere, in our own solar system or on the 100 or so planets discovered recently in other nearby solar systems? What is the future of humans in space; is there a possibility of life existing beyond the earth?"

Libby Larsen, one of America's most prolific living composers and holder of the Harissios Papamarkou Chair in Education and Technology, described 30 years of walking around "listening to the air, which is my instrument." She said she listens, and then makes an order of sound in time and space, and presents that order to a symphony, an opera company, a jazz pianist—"someone who has a specific instrument to excite the air with my order of sound in time and space." She said she does that to communicate "what it's like to be alive."

Speaking last, Collins said he was reminded of the high school test in which one picks out the word that does not belong: chickadee, robin, sparrow, banana. "I am the banana," he said. "I am not a scholar; I am a poet. I don't spend my time doing difficult research. I spend my time looking out the window, and, along with Libby, I enjoy listening to air, which is another poetic obligation."

But then he summed up the importance of contemplative reading and thinking at a place like the Kluge Center, in the hope that quiet, thoughtful reflection could enhance the work of "the doers" across the street. ◆

*Gail Fineberg is editor of The Gazette, the Library's staff newsletter.*

# 'Master of the Senate'

## *Robert Caro on LBJ and Legislative Power*

By HELEN DALRYMPLE

Robert Caro, prize-winning author and historian, regaled a standing-room audience at the Library of Congress on May 20 with stories about Lyndon Johnson and his domination of the U.S. Senate in the 1950s.

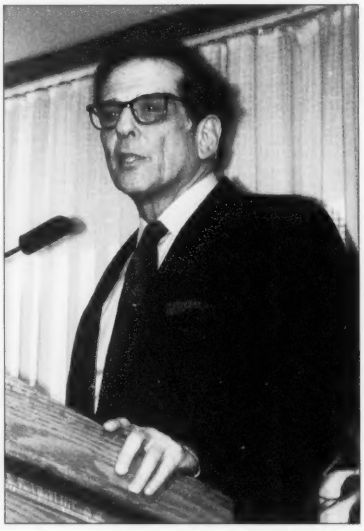
"All my books are really about political power," said Caro. "I was never interested in writing biographies just to tell the story of the life of a famous man. ... From the first time when I was a reporter, and I thought of doing a biography of Robert Moses, I thought of biography as a means of illuminating the great forces ... that shaped his times, and particularly the force that is political power."

The Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington, in introducing Caro, praised him as a "superb chronicler and interpreter of 20th century America, a real historian ... one of its most penetrating analysts of one of its least well-covered subjects ... the Congress of the United States." All of Caro's books have won notable prizes, and he has now received two Pulitzers: the first for his Robert Moses biography, "The Power Broker," published in 1974, and more recently, the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Biography for "Master of the Senate," the third volume in his series on The Years of Lyndon Johnson.

After showing the basis for political power at the local level through the career of Robert Moses, Caro said he was interested in examining the source of political power at the national level using Lyndon Johnson. Because, just as Moses had done something no one else had done, so had Johnson as majority leader in the U.S. Senate, from 1955 through the end of 1960.

"What caught my eye about those years with Lyndon Johnson is, those six years were basically the only time since the days of Webster, Clay and Calhoun, that the Senate of the United States really worked in the way the Founding Fathers had intended. By which I mean as its own center of governmental energy, creativity and ingenuity."

Caro said he thought that if he could find out how Johnson was able to lead the Senate, "how he made it work, that would be a way of understanding legislative power, not in theory, but in reality."



Helen Dalrymple

Robert Caro

Originally, Caro said he had something much shorter in mind in writing about Johnson's Senate years. But that all changed when he stood on the floor of the Senate himself and realized that the book had to be about something in addition to Lyndon Johnson and in addition to legislative power.

Caro remembered the efforts of "the great triumvirate" of Webster, Clay and Calhoun, who fought for 30 years on the floor of the Senate to save the Union; and he thought about the southern committee chairmen who had controlled the Senate for decades, and who "made the Senate a dam against which all liberal legislation broke in vain."

Caro said, "I realized ... that if I was truly trying to examine the roots of legislative power, Senatorial power, for the purposes of this book, I had to try to show the Senate actually exercising its power, and then losing its power. ... Why did the Senate stop working? And how did Lyndon Johnson make it work again?

"In that moment," Caro said, "I think I knew that this book was not going to be just about Lyndon Johnson and not just about legislative power, but about the Senate of the United States; the history of the Senate and what the Founding Fathers intended it to be."

The best answer to the question of how Johnson led the Senate—when no one else had been able to do it for the previous 100 years—was given by Johnson himself, according to Caro. He quotes Johnson in the epigraph to his book, "Master of the Senate": "I do understand power, whatever else may be said about me. I know where to look for it, and how to use it."

Caro said he described in his book 20 different sources of power that Johnson found and created. He talked about one of them: Sam Rayburn, who ruled the House of Representatives as majority leader and Speaker of the House for more than 27 years.

Rayburn was a shy and lonely man, Caro said, but when Johnson and his wife Lady Bird came to Washington in 1934, they all became friends, and soon Rayburn was having breakfast every Sunday with the Johnsons.

That same year, while Lady Bird was back in Texas visiting her family, Johnson was hospitalized with pneumonia. Rayburn sat up with him all night in the hospital, and in the morning, Caro said, when Johnson awoke, Rayburn leaned over him and said: "Lyndon, never worry about anything again; if you need anything, call on me." And not surprisingly, said Caro, he soon did, asking Rayburn to recommend him to head the National Youth Administration for Texas, although he had absolutely no previous administrative experience. Rayburn did, and, Caro said, "Johnson's career is on its way."

When Johnson got to the Senate in January1949, "he realizes in an instant that he has a source of power that no one else has," said Caro. "Johnson realizes he's the only Senator who can go to the Speaker who rules the House and ask him to do a specific thing for a Senator." It wasn't long before Senators were asking Johnson to "have a word with Mr. Sam" on behalf of their particular piece of legislation. And Johnson does; but he also "makes sure

that the Senator knows it, knows he owes him a favor, and also knows that he's going to need him again for similar favors. That's a real source of power," Caro added.

"Lyndon Johnson used these powers with a ruthlessness that made them even more effective," Caro said. Caro quoted Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson talking about the lengths to which Johnson would go to get someone's vote: "'He would charm you or knock your block off, or bribe you or threaten you, anything he had to to get your vote. And he'd get it.'"

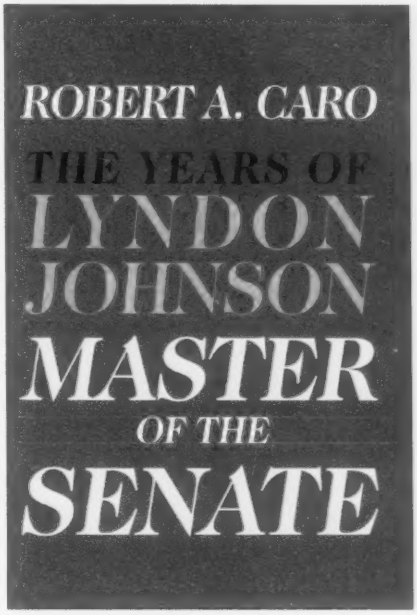
Although Johnson was operating with only a one-vote margin for most of the six years that he led the Senate, he used the powers he had found and created, said Caro, and he really ran the Senate. He was all over the Senate, buttonholing any members whose vote he needed, never sitting still. "His eyes missed nothing," Caro said, "he seemed always to be in motion."

"What did Lyndon Johnson do with this power?" Caro asked.

"He broke the dam that the Senate had been for so many decades against liberal legislation. He passed things that no one believed could be passed in the Senate," Caro said, among them, the first civil rights bill since Reconstruction. Although scores of civil rights bills had passed the House, not one had passed the Senate because of the power of the southerners who chaired most of the Senate committees.

"Johnson sets out to pass this bill. To watch him do it—to get these votes together, one by one, you might say, he puts these votes together—is to see not just legislative power, but legislative genius."

"He truly was," Caro concluded, "a master of the Senate." ◆




## Hwa-Wei Lee Named Chief of Asian Division

Hwa-Wei Lee, the former dean of libraries at Ohio University, has recently been appointed chief of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress.

"We are privileged to have Dr. Lee join us as chief of the Asian Division," said Carolyn Brown, director for Area Studies Collections. "He is well-known in the field of international librarianship, having served as a library consultant and lecturer in countries throughout Asia under the sponsorship of organizations such as the Asia Foundation, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, the Japan Foundation for Global Partnership, UNESCO and others."

Hwa-Wei Lee

Lee graduated from National Taiwan Normal University and earned master's degrees in education and library science and a doctorate in education and library science from the University of Pittsburgh. He has had more than 40 years of experience in academic libraries, including the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University and Ohio University, where he held the position of dean of libraries for more than 21 years until his retirement in 1999.

During his tenure at Ohio University, he transformed a modest library system into one that achieved membership in the Association of Research Libraries. He developed international collections for Southeast Asian Studies as well as for other parts of the world. He was also a founding member and advisor to OhioLINK, a statewide system that pools materials from all major academic libraries into one unified entity.

In 1979 Lee initiated a highly successful internship program that brought librarians from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Central America to the university. To date more than 175 librarians have participated in the program. Under his leadership, the endowments of the Ohio University libraries grew to more than $8 million and other grants reached an excess of $2.5 million.

Upon his retirement, Lee received awards for distinguished service from the American Library Association, Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association, Chinese American Librarians Association, Library Association of China (Taiwan), OhioLINK and Ohionet.

In 1999 Ohio University named the first floor of the Vernon R. Alden Library (the main library) the Hwa-Wei Lee Center for International Collections, and by resolution of the university's Board of Trustees, a new library building was named the Hwa-Wei Lee Library Annex. Lee served as dean emeritus at Ohio University until his recent appointment to the Library of Congress.

The Library of Congress is a central repository for all types of Asian publications that are not broadly available at other locations in the United States. Initiated in 1869 with a gift of 10 works in 934 volumes offered to the United States by the Emperor of China, the Library's Asian collection of more than 2 million items is the largest and most comprehensive outside of Asia. ◆

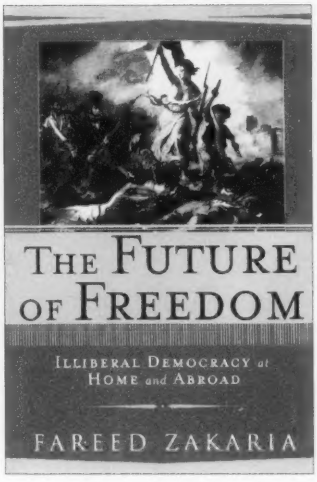
# Freedom's Future

## *Fareed Zakaria Discusses Democracy in Iraq*

By DONNA URSCHEL

The difficult task of bringing democracy to Iraq has a greater chance of success if the United States makes a long-term commitment there and enlists the help of the international community, according to author and journalist Fareed Zakaria.

Fareed Zakaria




The editor of Newsweek International and a regular columnist for the magazine's domestic edition, Zakaria appeared at the Library on April 16, under the auspices of the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress, to discuss his new book "The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad." Zakaria took some themes from his book and applied them to the situation in Iraq.

"The only way you will achieve good government in Iraq is through some kind of lengthy institution-building process," Zakaria said. The Iraqis, however, will perceive a lengthy stay as American imperialism. "This is why it's so important for the U.S. to involve the rest of the world in rebuilding Iraq," he explained.

"It's not something to do as an act of charity to the United Nations. It is something to do for the pragmatic reason that it will make the whole process work," Zakaria said. "That way it's not just the U.S. picking the leaders in Iraq. The point is to multinationalize it, to make it an international rather than an American occupation."

Currently, he said, the United States is doing the political work and the United Nations is taking the humanitarian role. "I'm not so sure, for America, this is such a good deal. Why not flip the bargain, or at least share it?"

Zakaria said he thinks a long stay in Iraq is necessary because of the difficulty in establishing a democratic political system. "If you look at the past four decades, the Third World is littered with examples of democracies that have gone awry."

If the United States creates law and order, gets the basic services up and running, holds elections, and then leaves, there is still no guarantee for an effective government. "Elections, of course, do not bring democracies," Zakaria said. He referred to a worldwide dismal pattern of new democracies holding elections and then the elected officials creating dictatorships.

"What we mean in the West by democracy is really a liberal democracy which comprises two traditions: constitutional liberalism and elections," Zakaria explained. Constitutional liberalism includes the rule of law, a separation of powers, the protection of basic liberties of speech, assembly, religion and property. In Great Britain and the United States, these traditions were acquired long before the democracies were officially established. Today other parts of the world are forced to create democracies the other way around—hold elections and hope the rule of law will follow.

"With Iraq, how do you avoid this dismal pattern? How do you get not only the outer shell of democracy, but the inner stuffing as well, the institutions that really make democracy work?" Zakaria asked.

Instituting these features of a liberal democracy will be difficult in Iraq because it has two great disadvantages, oil and ethnic diversity. There is only one oil-rich country today that is a functioning democracy—Norway, and Norway acquired its democracy a lot earlier than it found its oil, according to Zakaria.

"If you have treasure in the ground, you don't need to do the hard work of earning money, creating a modern state with a framework of laws and policies that create the rule of law. You just drill a hole in the ground," Zakaria explained.

When a nation has to tax its people, there is a political effect. The country has to give something back to the people in return for their money. "This historic bargain between taxation and representation is at the heart of Western liberty," he said, "and the lack of taxation is at the heart of political dysfunction in oil-rich states."

An oil-rich state that doesn't have to tax its people doesn't have to give its people anything in return. Zakaria referred to these countries as feudal medieval societies that happen to have a lot of cash.

Iraq's second problem is ethnic diversity. While diversity is a good thing, Zakaria said, it has to be well managed and integrated into the system. He cited Yugoslavia and countries in Africa and Asia, in which ethnic diversity led to ethnic rivalry and subsequent "ethnic cleansing." In a country with a political vacuum and no mature development of political parties, an ambitious politician may try to appeal to voters through raw tribalism and ethnic identity.

In Iraq, the Shiite Muslim group is the majority with 60 percent, Sunni Muslim is a minority with 20 percent, and the rest of the country is Kurd, Christian, Turkoman and Assyrian. "All elements of rivalry are coming to the fore. How it will work itself out will be one of the great problems of Iraq," Zakaria predicted.

"I don't want to sound entirely gloomy. There are solutions to these problems," he said.

First, the power in Iraq should be shared and decentralized. A constitution should create a federal state with

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# Immigrants Enrich American Culture

## *Ong Delivers Asian Pacific Heritage Keynote*

By AUDREY FISCHER

It's a long climb up the corporate ladder from receptionist to corporate president, but it's a trek that National Geographic Channel President Laureen Ong has made—several rungs at a time. A third-generation Chinese-American, Ong delivered the 2003 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month keynote address at the Library of Congress on May 5.

"I could not have done it myself without a talented team of people," said Ong. "It's never about the individual. It's about the group."

By her own definition, Ong comes from "a traditional Chinese-American family" and was expected to enter a "respectable female career," such as teaching. But along the way, she took a job as a receptionist for a small independent television network and "fell in love with that profession."

When the opportunity to advance to station traffic manager presented itself, she jumped at the chance, but was nearly a victim of her own success. When she overheard a conversation in which it became clear that she was too highly regarded to be spared from the typing pool, she knew she had to take action.

"First I apologized for overhearing the conversation," said Ong, and, with all the humility she could muster, thanked her boss "for recognizing my stellar receptionist skills." But her ace in the hole was offering to train her replacement to perform at the same high level.

"The deal was done and the rest is history," said Ong.

Looking back on this pivotal moment in her early career, Ong recalled believing that "I could achieve anything. After all, this was America where anything was possible if you worked hard."

Laureen Ong

Referring to this year's Asian month theme, "Salute to Liberty," Ong said, "I am a walking example of what liberty means. It's the state of being free. It's what my ancestors and yours expected to find here."

Armed with this belief, Ong spent the early days of her career traveling the country on business. While managing syndication sales for MTM Distribution in the Midwest region of the country, Ong was told by many station managers that she was the first Asian American woman ever to make a sales call.

"Why not make your first purchase from an Asian American woman?" quipped Ong. Before long, many did.

After more than 25 years of experience in television programming, Ong became president of the National Geographic Channel in 2000.

"I salute liberty every day by educating and enlightening people about the world's cultures and how they impact us today. At the National Geographic Channel, we believe that America is not just a melting pot but a mosaic consisting of unique, distinct and ever-present pieces. The channel provides a global sensibility that helps us better understand our collective experience."

By way of example, Ong shared several film clips from National Geographic Today. One clip focused on historic Angel Island in San Francisco Bay, which, during the late 19th century, was the site where thousands of Asians were processed and often detained prior to entering the United States. Angel Island stands as a living memorial to these immigrants, many of whose mournful poems are literally carved into the walls. The site attracts approximately 46,000 people annually.

The second clip featured cellist Yo Yo Ma, who founded the Silk Road Project (**www.silkroadproject.com**) to connect different cultures through music. The clip included a performance by the Silk Road Ensemble comprising artists from many different cultural traditions.

"The artistry of Yo Yo Ma in this country is made possible by the wave of immigration that passed through Angel Island," said Ong. "From centuries ago to modern day events, Asian culture continues to influence our experience." ◆

*Audrey Fischer is a public affairs specialist in the Public Affairs Office.*

**Zakaria**

*continued from page 138*

substantial regional authority, and the regions should not be all ethnically or religiously based. His slogan for Iraq would be "To the loser go the spoils," so those people who win only a small portion of the vote would still get something, some representation.

Second, oil revenues also should be shared. He said some countries handle oil revenues well. For example, in Chad in Africa, oil money is earmarked for education and health care, and the rest is used to retire the national debt. In Alaska, the oil money is given back to the people as a dividend. Alaskans each receive a check for about $1,500 every year.

Zakaria said the only way to deal with these problems effectively is to have a long transition period. He doubts that an effective system can be established in nine months, the current U.S. goal. It will take longer, and a longer occupation by American troops will be viewed negatively, making it imperative that the United States bring in the international community to help rebuild Iraq.

"Let's try to make it a genuine, lasting democracy rather than something that is here today and gone tomorrow," he said.

After his talk Zakaria answered questions from the audience on topics such as the chances for a Palestinian state, the need for Iraqi separation of church and state, and Iraq's effect on other countries in the Arab world. ◆

*Donna Urschel is a freelance writer.*

# Farewell to the Laureate

## *Billy Collins Concludes Term with Poetry Reading*

By DEBORAH DURHAM-VICHR

Billy Collins ended his reading of 21 poems May 7 with a shy bow to the standing ovation in the Coolidge Auditorium, as if still reluctant to accept the praise that has been bestowed on him over the last two years as the Library's—and hence the nation's—Poet Laureate.

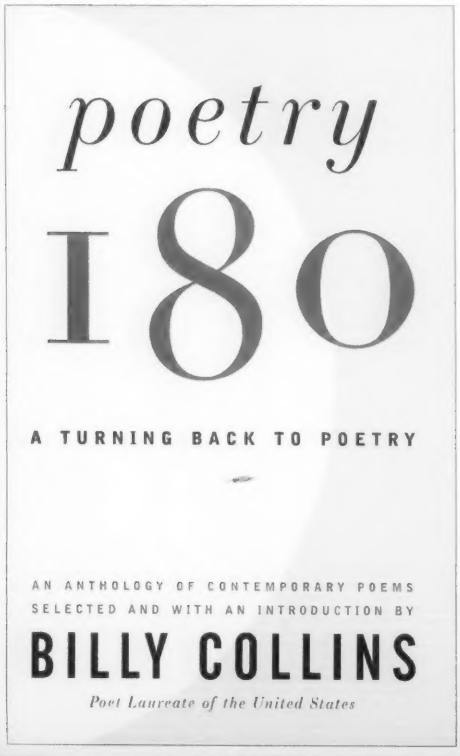
Collins' reading was his last "official" Library appearance in the role that he was appointed to in 2001; the event also closed the Library's Poetry and Literature Center's spring series of readings.

The mixed, packed audience was a testament to this poet laureate's popularity—an appeal that often has Collins compared with Robert Frost. Professionals in suits, students in biker boots, elderly people with canes, the famous and the unknowns; all came to hear Collins read.

As Prosser Gifford, director of the Office of Scholarly Programs, put it in his closing to the program: "Everybody loves Billy."

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington opened the evening by recounting Collins' contributions over the last two years. "[Collins] has brought humor and very deft intelligence" as the 11th Poet Laureate, he said.

Collins' project Poetry 180, a Web site to promote the reading of daily poems in high schools across America **(www.loc.gov/poetry/180/)**, has taken the work of the laureate, who is charged with expanding the role of poetry in national life, to new heights, Billington noted. He added that Collins' project builds on former laureates' efforts, such as Robert Hass' River of Words contest and Pinsky's Favorite Poem project. The Poetry 180 Web site gets 2 million hits a month, and has garnered more than 20 million hits since its launch in January 2002.




Billington also lauded the poem "The Names," which Collins wrote in commemoration of the victims of September 11, 2001, and read at a special session of Congress on Sept. 6, 2002. Billington added that Collins is a "great voice of our country."

Collins thanked Billington for appointing him, and in trademark humor expressed his gratitude to those who helped him in his work at the Poetry and Literature Center, such as Jennifer Rutland and Prosser Gifford.

Michaela McNichol

**Poet Laureate Billy Collins**

"One of the accusations leveled at me, besides making sense, is that I am conscious of the presence of a reader," said Collins as he began his reading. "The reader I imagine is an imaginary friend who has grown up with me."

Collins, whose choice of "Billy" as moniker hints at his penchant for simplicity, is known for writing poetry that, as he says, "has a very open door policy." He writes about ordinary things and situations with a surprising twist, as in his poem "On Turning Ten," which he read.

> This is the beginning of sadness, I say to myself,
> As I walk through the universe in my sneakers.
> It is time to say good-bye to my imaginary friends,
> Time to turn the first big number.
> (from "The Art of Drowning," 1995)

Audience member Patricia Dwyer, a professor of English at Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, W.V., who drove three hours to hear Collins read, explained the poet's appeal: "He is so accessible to the students I teach, but he also challenges them to think beyond the surface of the poem—that's a really hard line to walk. He's funny, mysterious and inspiring, all at once."

Collins, a professor of English for 30 years at Lehman College, City University of New York, also has broken records for selling poetry, and his penultimate book, "Sailing Alone Around the Room: New & Selected Poems" (Random House, 2001), has sold more than 100,000 copies. Not bad for someone who started at 40 to publish "real books" of poetry, eschews poetry workshops, doesn't rewrite, and invented a new form, the "paradelle," to poke fun at the artifice of poetry, Collins pointed out to his audience.

"[A paradelle] is one of the more demanding French fixed forms, first appearing in the langue d'oc love poetry of the 11th century. It is a poem of four six-line stanzas in which the first and second lines, as well as the third and fourth lines of the first three stanzas, must be identical." Some in poetry circles took the bait, believing that Collins' invention was an historical form.

Collins says he represents a break with the modernists, who believed poetry had to be difficult in order to be worthwhile. He has said that Poetry 180's goal, with its wide selection of poetry from all genres, is not to analyze, to purposely not ask questions after a poem, but "just simply to read a poem a day."

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# Courage, Patriotism, Community

## *New Patriotic Web Site Features Stories, Music, Roots*

In honor of Memorial Day and in celebration of the American spirit, the Library of Congress launched a new Web site at the end of May highlighting its collections of veterans' stories, patriotic music and community life. The new site, called Courage, Patriotism, Community, is accessible at **www.loc.gov/courage**.

Courage, Patriotism, Community comprises three Web presentations: Experiencing War: Stories from the Veterans History Project; Patriotic Melodies: Selections from I Hear America Singing; and Community Roots: Selections from the Local Legacies Project.

Experiencing War (**www.loc.gov/warstories**) features selected stories from the Library's Veterans History Project in the American Folklife Center. Created by an act of Congress in 2000, the Veterans History Project provides veterans and the civilians who supported them the opportunity to record for posterity their wartime experiences.

"The Veterans History Project gives all veterans the opportunity to speak openly and freely about their wartime experiences. We think it a fitting tribute on this Memorial Day that Americans across the nation can go to the Library's Web site and experience firsthand such an important piece of our national memory. Every veteran has his or her own war, and each is custodian of a unique story and memories," said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington.

These poignant stories, which reflect the Web site's theme of "courage, patriotism and community," are told through video, audio and written personal accounts from 21 veterans and civilians. They include such stories as that of James Walsh, veteran of the Korean War, who describes the numbing cold and horrifying scenes he endured with the 25th Infantry. Also included are photographs, diaries and scrapbooks—all digitized and presented on the Web site.

This initial release of personal narratives will be followed by many more from the 7,000 collections the Veterans History Project has received to date.

Patriotic Melodies (**www.loc.gov/patrioticmusic**) illustrates the close connection between patriotism, music, and the expression of the American spirit; it features some of the nation's most beloved patriotic tunes as well as the story behind the creation of each melody. The 26 initial selections include national songs like "The Star Spangled Banner," "America" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee"; military theme songs like "The Army Goes Rolling Along," "Anchors Aweigh" and "The Marines' Hymn"; and music like "Over There" and "Yankee Doodle Boy" drawn from musical theater. A trip to the Web site will allow visitors to turn the pages of Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," listen to Kate Smith sing "God Bless America," and learn interesting facts—such as the original title of George M. Cohan's renowned song, "You're a Grand Old Flag," which was first called "You're a Grand Old Rag."

Community Roots (**www.loc.gov/folklife/roots**) documents America's local festivals, community events and other grassroots activities. The events selected for this presentation come from the larger Local Legacies collection—a joint project of the Library of Congress and the U.S. Congress that was initiated during the Library's bicentennial celebration in 2000 to document the nation's multicultural traditions at the turn of the 20th century. For the purpose of the online presentation, one local tradition has been selected to represent each state, the District of Columbia, the territories and trusts. These include Buccaneer Days in Texas, which celebrates a time in history when pirate ships sailed the Gulf waters, and the World's Largest Pancake Breakfast—serving some 40,000—in Springfield, Mass. Viewed as a whole, Community Roots highlights the ways in which Americans celebrate their diverse cultural backgrounds.

From baseball cards to presidential diaries, from Edison's first films to Mathew Brady's Civil War photographs, more than 8 million items are now freely available online from the Library's Web site at **www.loc.gov**. ◆

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**Collins**

*continued from page 140*

His own gift became clear as Collins read the final poem, "Night Club," touching the audience even as it drew laughs:

> You are so beautiful and I am a fool to be
> in love with you
> is a theme that keeps coming up
> in songs and poems.
> There seems to be no room for variation.
> I have never heard anyone sing
> I am so beautiful
>
> And you are a fool to be in love with me, …

At this point, the audience was all grins. But soon a hush fell with the last lines of the poem:

> We are all so foolish,
> My long bebop solo begins by saying,
> So damn foolish
> We have become beautiful without even
> knowing it.
> (from "The Art of Drowning," 1995) ◆

*Deborah Durham-Vichr is a contract writer/editor in the Public Affairs Office.*

# Library Voices

## *Oral History Project Tells Tales of the Institution*

By HELEN DALRYMPLE

Three former staff members of the Library of Congress—with a combined work history of 100 years—joined forces on April 10 to share with a receptive audience in the Mumford Room some of their stories about working at the Library. Marlene Morrisey (1941-1983), Alan Fern (1961-1982) and John Kominski (1960-1997) remembered their days at the Library with affection and wry good humor.

Josephus Nelson, manuscript specialist and head of an oral history project centered in the Library of Congress Archives, a part of the Manuscript Division's collections, was responsible for coordinating the program and bringing the three together to talk about their experiences. Nelson received a Billington/Krasnoff grant to start the oral history project during the Library's bicentennial celebration in 2000, and he has now interviewed some 27 former staff members, adding their recorded oral recollections to the written record of the Library's history.

Marlene Morrisey, as the senior member of the group, spoke first. She recalled that she met the chief assistant librarian, Luther H. Evans, who was also the director of the Reference Department, the first day she came into the Library for an interview in April 1941.

"I liked him from the start," said Morrisey. "He was friendly, had a merry look in his eyes, a good sense of humor and a quick mind." Evans sent her to Herbert A. Kellar, the director of a temporary unit called the Experimental Division of Library Cooperation, because he was looking for a research secretary with a college degree. She was offered a temporary, three-month position at $1,440 a year that same afternoon, providing she could pass the typing and shorthand tests. "I passed them," she said, "came to work three days later and stayed over 42 years."

Archibald MacLeish was the Librarian of Congress at the time, and Morrisey described her first meeting with him.

"I was introduced to Mr. MacLeish in a few days. He was a dashing fellow dressed in the 1920s style with flannel trousers and a yellow sweater. He had an aristocratic air and was very self-assured. ... Most of us were afraid of him, but we all learned from his vigorous administrative approach. He demanded correct English, tolerated no careless errors and distinctly gave the impression that he had no doubts about his decision-making. ... He was a hardworking, brilliant leader."

One of MacLeish's major accomplishments was a reorganization of the Library's administrative departments. "Instead of having some 35 divisions reporting to the Librarian," Morrisey said, "he wanted only six department directors, with the divisions grouped around them." While this made sense to many of the Library's managers, another of his proposals—to have all outgoing special materials such as maps, manuscripts, prints and music checked out at the central desk in the Main Reading Room rather than in the various divisions—was not so popular.

According to Morrisey, Evans and the division chiefs opposed this suggested change but were losing the fight until Evans included the following anecdote in his daily report to the Librarian. "Today I went down to Woodward & Lothrop [department store] to spend my last shoe coupon. I tried to get the sales clerk to bring the shoes to the first floor but she insisted that I take the elevator to the fifth floor [to the shoe department]." Morrisey noted that that was the last they heard from MacLeish about checking out all special materials from the Main Reading Room.

When she completed her initial temporary three-month assignment, Morrisey was assigned to Evans' office, and when he was appointed Librarian of Congress in 1945, she became his special assistant and remained in that position until he left the Library for UNESCO in 1953.

Morrisey said that although the Library staff in the 1940s was small enough for everyone to know one other, the atmosphere was formal and last names were always used.

"I worked with Luther Evans 10 years before he said, 'Marlene, don't you think we know each other well enough to use first names?'

"It was a dignified environment; coats and ties for male staff and long-sleeved dresses for women were the rules of that time. And everything was done at a slower, more deliberate pace."

The threat of war in the spring of 1941 changed all that. Staff volunteered three evenings a week to develop lists of materials that should be evacuated for safekeeping, and after the attack on Pearl Harbor, it was even busier, said Morrisey.

"Almost every division was involved in service to the military and to other agencies close to the war effort. We lent linguists to the military to teach the troops en route to Europe and Asia. We prepared bibliographies on war-related topics for war agencies' use. We supplied maps, put together songbooks, sent reading matter, contributed comic books with propaganda value. The Library staff worked 48 hours a week and carried briefcases home every night. If we failed to have our homework in hand, Dr. Evans would ask us if something were wrong. He lugged two cases filled with work every night and expected all his staff to do likewise."

Yusef El-Amin

**Josephus Nelson, Manuscript Division, confers with Marlene Morrisey, Alan Fern and John Kominski before the start of the "Library Voices" program.**

Morrisey recounted the story of telling Evans that she would have to go on maternity leave in the fall. He made appropriate comments, she said, and then said she could be transferred to the back of the building and work in the Division for the Adult Blind (where presumably she would be out of sight) until she went on leave. Morrisey added emphatically, "This did not happen. I had my baby and returned to a private office and a secretary."

Morrisey became the executive assistant to the new Librarian of Congress, L. Quincy Mumford, in 1954 and remained with him in that capacity until he retired in 1974. She later worked as special assistant to the Register of Copyrights and then became the first specialist in the Manuscript Division's Library of Congress Archives, retiring in April 1983.

"There were not many days when I disliked coming to work," Morrisey said as she concluded her presentation. "Most of those 42 years I could hardly wait for another day of interesting events and new learning experiences. After all, as one colleague used to say, 'The Library of Congress is a very good address.'"

Alan Fern began his remarks by saying that his experience in coming to the Library of Congress was somewhat different, acknowledging that "Marlene is a hard act to follow." Fern said he was teaching at the University of Chicago in 1961 when he came to the Library to look at its collections on art nouveau. He met with Edgar Breitenbach, then chief of the Prints and Photographs Division, and "at the end of the day, it turned out I was not studying, I was being interviewed. I didn't know it was a temporary job," Fern added. "They didn't tell me that."

Fern was initially assistant curator for fine prints and became curator a year later. He worked on building up the collections and also took on "odd assignments—things Breitenbach didn't want to do—like working on computers and thinking about how they could be used."

Fern was named assistant chief of the division in 1964 and became chief in 1973 when Breitenbach retired. He said that some of his most interesting adventures involved the issue of film conservation, because the motion picture section was part of the Prints and Photographs Division until a reorganization of the Library in 1978.

Discussing the two Librarians under whom he worked, Mumford and Daniel J. Boorstin, Fern said that Mumford was mainly interested in processing, international relations and space expansion. "He delegated the reference divisions to the reference department." He remembered Mumford fondly as a "very, very open and kind man. We got to be good friends."

Fern said that Boorstin was interested in giving the Library a larger public profile, and as a result, Library exhibitions flourished under his leadership.

Fern was named director of the Research Department in 1976, which then encompassed most of the divisions that are now included in Area Studies and Public Service Collections, and then became director of Special Collections in 1978, when Research Services was formed, with separate directors for General Reference, Area Studies and Special Collections.

"I was asked to come up and take a different job, Special Collections. I didn't really want it because I always thought the action was in running a division." But, he added, "I'm glad I could spend 21 years with you, and I'm very pleased to be back."

Fern left the Library in 1982 to become director of the National Portrait Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution; he retired in 2000.

"Fifteen minutes? That's like putting 'The Americans' [by Daniel J. Boorstin] into a pamphlet," said Kominski as he took the podium. Kominski began work at the Library as a reading room assistant in the Law Library while he was still in law school.

"It was 1959. I was in law school at Georgetown, and I went to my congressman, Eddie Boland [D-Mass.], to get a job. Boland played poker with Larry Keitt, the Law Librarian, and he said to me, 'I think he needs some help in the Law Library.'" Kominski soon had a job as a part-time GS-3, filing looseleaf pages. "My annual salary was less than the lowest paid LC employee gets now in a pay period," he said.

After completing law school and serving a stint in the Air Force, Kominski returned to the Law Library as a reference assistant in the American-British Law Division. He soon moved on to become assistant general counsel in the Law Library (the Law Librarian also served as the Library's general counsel at that time). By 1971 the office of general counsel was a separate unit in the Librarian's office, and Kominski became the youngest person ever appointed to the position of general counsel for the Library.

Yusef El-Amin

**Librarian Emeritus Daniel J. Boorstin and his wife Ruth enjoy the reminiscences of former Library staff members.**

Kominski told how he particularly enjoyed working with staff members around the Library and helping them with various legal issues, from taxes (as a volunteer) to contracts. "I worked especially with contracts; the Library was really in the 19th century with regard to contracts [when I became general counsel]," he said. He worked closely with William J. Welsh, then director of the Processing Department, who later became deputy librarian under Boorstin and acting librarian after Boorstin's departure.

"Welsh said the greatest resource in the Library of Congress was its staff, and that really stuck with me. After that, with every opinion I wrote, I considered its effect on the staff. And I focused on the people with whom I was working; it was important to help them but also to try to educate them, so that in the end they learned a lot about law in their particular areas."

All three of the participants in the program responded to questions from the audience following their more formal remarks. Morrisey talked more about the Library's preparations for World War II and said they "were ready to go when Dec. 7 [1941] came"; Fern said that when he went into the stacks he was continually amazed at "the richness and the depth of the collections." But Kominski had the last word.

Asked whether he missed the Library, he said, "I sure don't miss the work, but I sure do miss the people!" ◆

# 'Libraries Are Vital to Downtowns'

## *D.C. Library Director Touts Urban Public Libraries*

By ALISON MORIN

Urban public libraries are increasingly becoming "destination spaces," District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) Director Molly Raphael told a Library of Congress audience in April. "Dynamic new central libraries are attractive neighbors in downtown areas because they bring foot traffic and repeat customers. They contribute to thriving and reviving downtowns," Raphael said.

In her lecture "Transforming the Urban Public Library," she portrayed libraries as growing, changing, trusted institutions that are as vital to their communities today as they have ever been. Her lecture was part of the Library's Luminary Lectures @ Your Library Series.

Raphael has had 30 years of experience at the District of Columbia Public Library, and for the past five years has been its director. The DCPL is 100 years old, with 21 branches, five community libraries and two mobile trucks.

She described the changing roles of public libraries, particularly in urban settings such as Chicago, Seattle, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Nashville and Washington, D.C. For example, she said, Chicago residents and businesses consider the downtown public library their central branch. Los Angeles plans to build or renovate 33 branch libraries between 1998 and 2004. Seattle Public Library will open a central branch in one year that will focus on technology.

In major urban areas such as these, Raphael said, public libraries are deliberately creating new opportunities for training in information literacy and cultural sensitivity, as well as building new or renovated facilities with striking architecture, grand reading rooms, conference centers with kitchens for banquets and other events, more personal computing stations, integrated retail services such as cafés, coffee and gift shops, and centers for teens (who, when asked to design their own library centers, demand not only technology but also access to materials and books).

Electronic information is no substitute for urban public libraries with appealing physical space, social interaction, and books and other materials. "Although our customers want the new technologies in our new libraries, they want them to supplement, not replace, the more traditional resources," Raphael said.

Molly Raphael

She gave five reasons why newly built or renovated public spaces have been successful and appealing even though people can meet their information needs in other ways:

- Libraries show that they are paying attention to the needs of their individual communities by offering new services and activities.
- Library designs now incorporate elements that elevate the importance of a street presence, making the library a desirable place with an image of comfort and sociability.
- Libraries either occupy prime city space or offer facilities and services that are not already provided for in the surroundings.
- Libraries recognize and embrace opportunities to collaborate with organizations that share common goals. For example, DCPL has partnered with the District government and the U.S. Small Business Administration to provide a new support center for small businesses, and with the Washington Hospital Center and Medstar Diabetes Institute to enhance health education.
- Libraries remain true to their public library mission, to inform the citizenry and provide lifelong learning. To meet their mission, libraries are obligated to provide computers and train people to use them.

In response to these public library movements, Raphael said, the DCPL Strategic Planning Committee in 1999 identified three strategic directions: (1) lifelong learning, with a particular emphasis on children and youth; (2) information literacy with an emphasis on technology and training for both the staff and the public; and (3) the "library as place," or the library as the center of the community, which entails rebuilding or renovating many library facilities.

All of these options require special resources and funding. How can libraries afford to build and renovate? "Our public funding level is woefully inadequate," said Raphael, explaining that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the "E-rate" are the major sources of funding for DCPL.

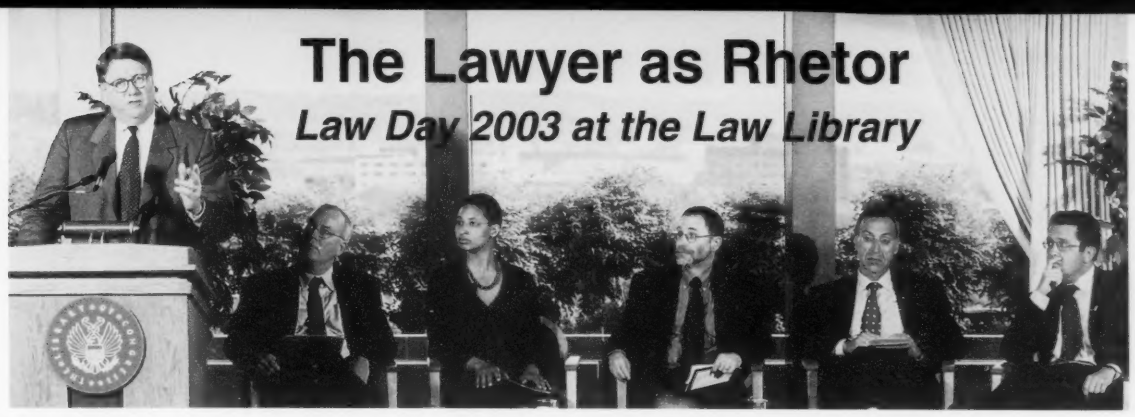
With the help of Ralph Nader's "DC Library Renaissance Project," an 18-month effort to muster the necessary resources, the DCPL engaged community leaders and filled District council chambers on March 20, with the result that $1 million was restored to the DCPL budget for FY 2004.

"I am an optimist … [and I] believe that the public library in the nation's capital must become one of the premier libraries in the country. We are determined to take this library system to new heights," Raphael concluded. "Urban public libraries have the opportunity to affect the lives of many more people than we did in the past. The question is, 'Will we be successful?' The answer is, 'Yes'—because if we are not, then our democracy will have lost one of its greatest assets." ◆

*Alison Morin is a digital reference specialist in the Public Service Collections Directorate.*

# The Lawyer as Rhetor

## *Law Day 2003 at the Law Library*



From left, Alfred Carlton of the ABA introduces a panel consisting of Kenneth Starr, Danielle Allen, Steven Lubet, Seth Waxman, and Jeffrey Toobin.

By JANICE HYDE

"The Lawyer as Rhetor" (rhetor is a master of rhetoric) was the subject of a May 1 program commemorating Law Day 2003. Initiated 45 years ago by former American Bar Association (ABA) president Charles Rhyne, Law Day provides an opportunity to deepen the public's understanding of the rule of law.

Co-hosted by the Law Library of Congress and the ABA's Division for Public Education and moderated by CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin, the program was the fourth in the Leon Jaworski Public Program Series on Representing the Lawyer in American Culture. Other program partners were the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and the Friends of the Law Library of Congress. Past programs in the series focused on the lawyer as reformer, celebrity and judge. A future program will examine the lawyer as citizen.

Law Librarian Rubens Medina underscored the significance of "the lawyer as rhetor" by pointing out that the rule of law is "the rule of words rather than weapons." According to Medina, the link between law and rhetoric is intrinsic, ancient and global.

Seth Waxman, partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Wilmer, Cutler, and Pickering and "distinguished visitor from practice" at the Georgetown University Law Center, commented that he mourns the loss of rhetoric in the courtroom. Time limits imposed in today's courts tend to restrict rhetoric, he said. In his opinion, the "hands-down" winner as American rhetor is Daniel Webster. Waxman read Associate Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story's account of Daniel Webster's three-day argument in the case of Trustees of Dartmouth College v. Woodward (1819). Webster insisted, however, that his presentation was all reason, not rhetoric.

Kenneth Starr, partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Kirkland & Ellis and distinguished adjunct professor of law at George Mason University, echoed Waxman's longing for a more leisurely time when courtroom adversaries listened respectfully to one another. In courts today, the process relies on interrogation rather than persuasion. Building trust is the "greatest rhetorical challenge," Starr said.

Danielle Allen, associate professor of classical languages and political science at the University of Chicago, added a historical perspective on the relationship between law and rhetoric. Drawing upon her expertise in classical Greek literature, she pointed out that the ancient Athenians had no lawyers, although there were juries. To present a case, one did not study law but rather how to speak, along with subjects such as sociology, psychology and history.

Steven Lubet, professor of law and comparative literary studies at Northwestern University, posed the question, "Don't lawyers just use slick words to obscure the truth?"

He noted that this belief stems from a basic misunderstanding of a trial—a trial is not the search for truth but a search for understanding. To reach understanding we must organize information, and the lawyer as rhetor serves to bring order to chaos. To explain why we need professional lawyers rather than do things as the Athenians did, he noted that unreliable witnesses make it difficult to reach understanding. According to Lubet, lawyers help juries to visualize actual events.

Waxman noted that in an adversarial system, the goal of the lawyer is to persuade on behalf of a client. Starr quoted Judge Gerhard Gesell (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, 1967-1993), who said that juries tend to get it right; that is, they figure out who is trustworthy and credible. Allen noted that among the Athenians the best speakers were those who had training in drama and was quick to point out that Greek word for "actor" is "hypocrite."

Toobin asked the panelists to consider the distinction, if any, between rhetoric and reason.

Allen noted that no distinction was made in ancient Greece between rhetoric and reason. Waxman suggested that neither is there a distinction in today's courts; one must go straight to the point without a lot of preparatory or introductory remarks. Starr said that today most judges and justices know the case when they take the bench, no longer making it necessary for lawyers to read the case to the judges, thereby reducing the opportunity for embellishment.

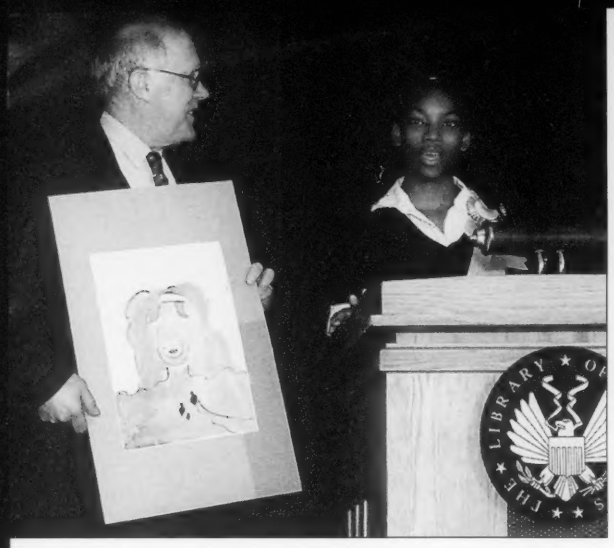
Lubet noted a big difference between trial court advocacy and appellate court advocacy. According to Lubet, in a trial court the lawyers go to great efforts to persuade a jury to accept a particular position. Therefore, the lawyer who can construct a presumably factual narrative that makes sense will be the winner.

"Is a rhetor someone who can sell?," asked Toobin. Waxman responded that any attorney who thinks that his performance is key is doing a disservice to his client. Allen said that among the Athenians, the primary concern was the perception that one literally was selling oneself. That is, being involved in a legal argument purely for monetary gain was considered the worst offense.

Lubet noted that we are in the midst of a historic period when the art of rhetoric is about to change due to the advent of computerized evidence. According to Lubet, presentation of evidence using computerized animation will render everything prior to this outmoded.

He cited two previous historical changes: defendants and plaintiffs were first allowed to testify after the Civil War; and in the 1930s new federal rules of civil procedure mandated discovery (disclosure of facts by the defendant), thereby altering trial preparation. ◆

*Janice Hyde is the Law Library program officer.*



All photos by John McShane

**Robert Hass with Amika Rudisell, age 14, who won the Anacostia Watershed Prize for her art work, "Pollution"; at right, Pamela Michael, Haas and the 2003 River of Words student winners and finalists**

## *News from the Center for the Book*

# Robert Hass Hosts River of Words Ceremony

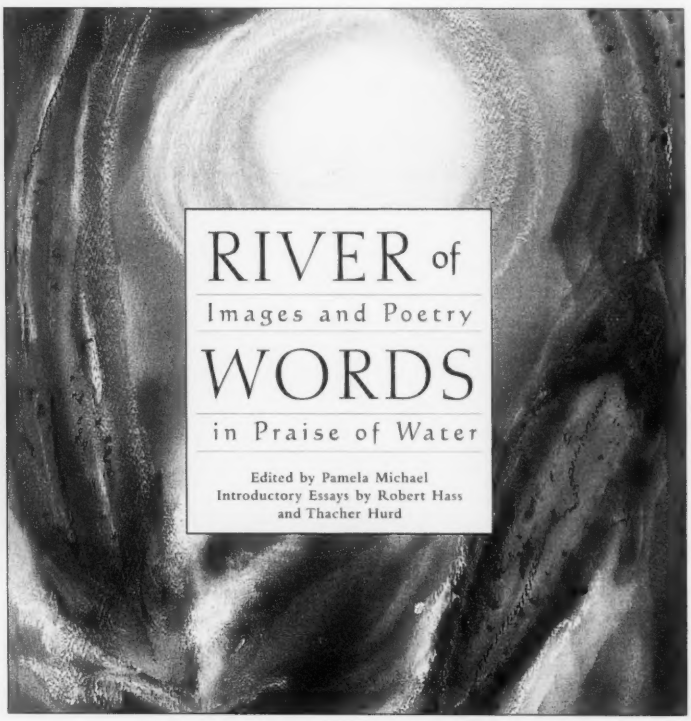
Poet Robert Hass, who served as U.S. Poet Laureate from 1995 to 1997, returned to the Library of Congress on April 26 to host a program honoring the student winners of the annual River of Words environmental poetry and art contest.

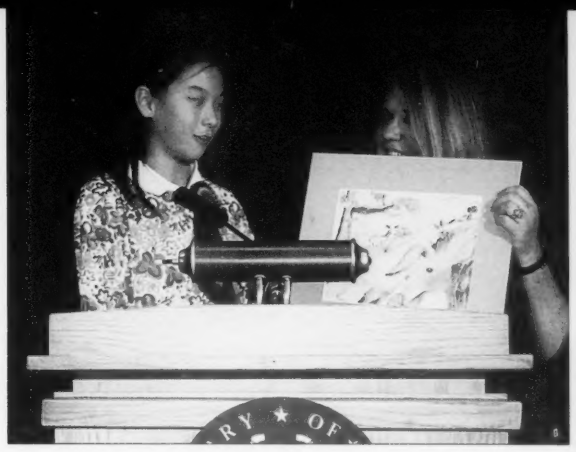
Eleven winners and finalists from across the United States read their poems or talked about their art work, which was on display in the Library's Mumford Room.

Stanislav Shpanin, age 12, from Baku, Azerbaijan, accepted the International Grand Prize for art. Alicia Hokanson of Seattle, the 2003 River of Words "Teacher of the Year," made brief remarks.

This was the eighth annual awards ceremony sponsored by the Center for the Book, a River of Words project partner. "Several of the center's state affiliates host or strongly support River of Words in their states," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. "We hope more state centers will become involved in 2004."

**Jane Rogers of San Francisco and Center for the Book Director John Cole display a photo of Rogers' stepfather, former Library employee and division chief, George Pughe Jr., to whom the new River of Words publication (right) is dedicated.**





Above left, Pamela Michael displays the winning art work (titled "Today's Nature, Tomorrow's Fantasy") of Andrea Hsueh, age 10, of San Jose, Calif. Stanislav Shpanin, age 12, from Baku, Azerbaijan (above), won the International Grand Prize (Art) last year for "The River is the Basis of Life." Accompanied by his parents, he received his award this year at the 2003 awards program.

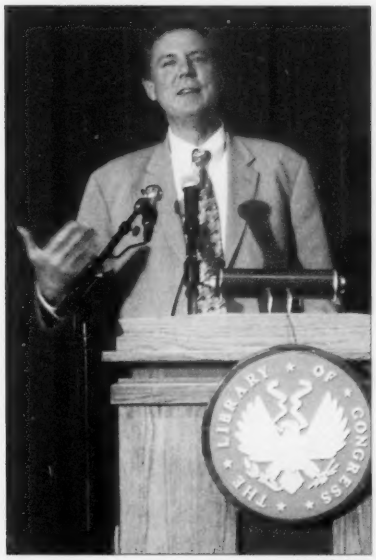
A program highlight was a preview of a colorful new 77-page publication, "River of Words: Images and Poetry in Praise of Water" (Heydey Books, 2003), that features winning entries from the project's early years. It is edited by book illustrator Thacher Hurd and the two founders of River of Words, Hass and writer Pamela Michael. The book, which is on sale in the Library's Sales Shop, has a strong Library of Congress connection. It is dedicated "In memory of George A. Pughe, Jr., who loved children, believed in the value of education, and devoted his professional life to the people and programs of the Library of Congress, where River of Words was born."

Jane Rogers of San Francisco, Pughe's step-daughter and a member of the River of Words board of directors, presented the book to Cole.

The River of Words annual environmental poetry and art contest is open to young people from ages 5 to 19. The deadline for next year's contest is Feb. 15, 2004. For information, contact River of Words, telephone (510) 548-7636, e-mail: info@riverofwords.org, or visit the Web site at **www.riverofwords.org**. ◆

# Congress and Armenia

## *Congressman Pallone Delivers Vardanants Day Lecture*



Levon Avdoyan

By LEVON AVDOYAN

Under the sponsorship of the Near East Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division, Frank Pallone Jr., seven-term Democratic congressman from the sixth district of New Jersey, delivered the 11th annual Vardanants Day Armenian Lecture on May 20 at the Library of Congress.

Speaking on "The United States Congress and Armenia Today," Pallone, founder and present co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, which now numbers 125 members, discussed the reasons behind the establishment of the caucus in 1995 as well as its subsequent activities, successes and future challenges.

Pallone also candidly addressed the chances for peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the region of Karabakh, the need for recognition of the Armenian Genocide, the role of the influential Armenian-American diaspora in aiding the newly independent republic, and Armenia's situation given the contemporary geopolitical situation in the Caucasus following the events of 9/11 and the war in Iraq.

Pallone's lecture will be mounted in the near future on the Library of Congress' Web site at **www.loc.gov/locvideo/vardanants/.** A historical discussion of the Armenian holiday, with a list of the previous Vardanants Day speakers, the text of the 2001 lecture by Harry J. Gilmore, the first U. S. ambassador to Armenia, and the cybercast of former Ambassador to Armenia Michael C. Lemmon's 2002 lecture, are available at **www.loc.gov/rr/amed/nes/cty/cai/caivartc.html**. ◆

*Levon Avdoyan is the Armenian and Georgian area specialist in the African and Middle Eastern Division.*

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